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## Bodinger cleared in cable inquiry

Page 12

## Michael Jackson loses face

Arts & Entertainment, Page 7

## Els wins US Open with one-stroke victory

World of Sport

Index	
Arts & Entertainment	7
Business	8
Crossword	11
Movies/TV	11
Opinion	6
Sports	10

# Massive bid to find conversion bill compromise

By HAIM SHAPIRO and LIAT COLLINS

Representatives of the American and Israeli Reform and Conservative movements last night said they are unsure whether they will agree to suspend their High Court petitions on conversion for three months, in the hope that by then a permanent solution to the issue could be found.

At a coalition meeting yesterday, unanimous agreement was reached for an initiative by MK Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) to freeze action on the conversion bill, which says that only the Chief Rabbinate may validate conversions in Israel, if the petitions also are

suspended. However, Rabbi Gil Nativ, president of the Israel Rabbinical Assembly (Conservative), said the leaders of the two movements would have to sit down, perhaps with their lawyers, and discuss all the various proposals, before they could say whether any offered a solution to the problem.

The effort to reach a compromise gained momentum as it became clear that Tsomet, Yisrael Ba'aliya, and the Third Way all would break coalition discipline and vote against the bill on its second and third readings. The Knesset Law Committee is sched-

uled to meet today to discuss the bill, with the participation of Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg and the non-Orthodox representatives.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday confirmed reports that he had canceled his planned visit to the U.S. "I will do everything possible to find a compromise that will be acceptable to all sides," he told reporters.

Following a meeting with coalition chairman Michael Eitan and MKs Ze'ev Begin and Alex Lubotzky, Rabbi Uri Regav, director of the Reform movement's Israel Religious Action Center, said that he and his colleagues were

impressed by the sincerity of those with whom they had met, but they are still unsure whether there was enough of a basis to go to the families whom they represented and say that there would be a solution.

"We can't just think of ourselves in this issue. We are representing families in which there is real human suffering," he said.

The hopes that a solution was on the way appeared to ebb following a meeting between the non-Orthodox rabbis and former Ashkenazi chief rabbi Avraham Shapiro, who told them in no uncertain terms that the Chief Rabbinate

is the only body in Israel which could authorize conversion.

The meeting had been heralded as a historic breakthrough, however it ended after only 20 minutes with the Reform and Conservative rabbis convinced that there was no basis for discussion.

Shapiro, who is considered to be one of the main spiritual mentors of the National Religious Party, told them that the supremacy of the Chief Rabbinate not only "discriminated" against the Reform and Conservative, but against many Orthodox groups which would like to conduct their own conversions. Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy

(NRP) told his faction that a public committee would be formed to find a compromise solution. This could take months or even a year, he said. Levy said that at present no compromise which had been raised was acceptable to the NRP. The faction decided that apart from MK Shaul Yahalom, who chairs the Law Committee, the NRP MKs will not meet with the non-Orthodox representatives. Yahalom said he is prepared to discuss any solution, as long as it preserves the status quo and the status of the Chief Rabbinate.

See COMPROMISE, Page 2

## 15 Palestinians injured in Hebron riots

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH, ARIEH O'SULLIVAN, and JON INMANUEL

One border policeman and 15 Palestinians were wounded yesterday in the third consecutive day of rioting in Hebron. Clashes between Palestinians and IDF

troops continued throughout the day. The rioting was less intense than previous days, and once again the Palestinian Police did not intervene. Meanwhile, the IDF filed a strong complaint with the security coordination committee, accusing the Palestinian Police and the Palestinian Authority of preventing Arabs from rioting around Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip.

## Arafat ordered Morag riots, Page 2

troops and border policemen continued throughout the day. The rioting was less intense than previous days, and once again the Palestinian Police did not intervene.

Meanwhile, the IDF filed a strong complaint with the security coordination committee, accusing the Palestinian Police and the Palestinian Authority of preventing Arabs from rioting around Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip.

The IDF complaint said the violations were particularly severe, since they took place while commanders on both sides were meeting in an effort to resolve the conflict. The complaint also accused the Palestinian Police of ignoring agreements to subdue the riots, the army said.

According to the IDF Spokesman, stones, firebombs, and a homemade pipe bomb were thrown at IDF troops and border policemen in Hebron yesterday. The spokesman said one Palestinian was arrested and detained for questioning.

At noon OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan and OC Judea and Samaria Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ophir visited the area. At the same time, a delegation from the Foreign Ministry toured the area with Hebron community spokesman

Noam Amon.

"The group consisted of Israeli ambassadors due to take up their post overseas who wanted to study the situation close up," Amon said, adding that the group also saw rioting Palestinians and other violations of the Hebron Accord. "The situation is explosive," he said.

A PA security official defended the Palestinian Police inaction by saying, "We will not kill people in the streets just because the Israeli government did not pay what it was supposed to pay."

PA Brig. Samir Sikek, deputy chairman of the joint security committee, said at a seminar on Extremism and Democracy under the auspices of the Israel-Palestine Center for Research and Information: "There is a limit to our power. If you crush your citizens, they are no longer obliged to fulfill any laws."

In Gush Katif, Palestinians accompanied by members of the media broke into the Avraham farm opposite Netzer Hazani at noon. According to Gush Katif spokesman Shlomo Kostiner, the Palestinians tore down the fence surrounding the farm that contains hundreds of dunams of agricultural plots tended by Gush Katif residents. Kostiner said the Palestinians damaged hothouses and uprooted vegetables. He added when IDF troops arrived they pushed the Palestinians off the farm.

The IDF Spokesman said that troops arrived almost immediately and fired rubber bullets and tear gas pellets to disperse the rioters.

The Spokesman said the Palestinians damaged crops and hothouses and during the clashes a Gush Katif resident fired shots into the air, but no one was injured. However, Palestinians claimed the resident shot a 25-year-old Palestinian man in the leg. He was hospitalized in Khan Yunis with moderate injuries, they said.



A border policeman grabs a Palestinian youth around the neck and arrests him for throwing rocks during clashes in Hebron yesterday. One border policeman and 15 Palestinian rioters were injured.

# PM said looking to dump Meridor

By SARAH HONIG, AMOTZ ASA-EL, and DAVID HARRIS

The latent discord between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Dan Meridor took center stage yesterday, with speculation rife that Netanyahu is seeking to rigger Meridor's resignation.

Late last night, Meridor cancelled a trip to the United States for talks with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan as he, Netanyahu and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel were locked in debate over proposed currency exchange reforms which would potentially include, in addition to a foreign exchange reform, budgetary correction, and an interest rate cut.

The speculation over Meridor's future was heightened by Netanyahu's very emphatic refusal to comment about a possible cabinet reshuffle.

"I have absolutely no intention of getting into this," Netanyahu told reporters at the Knesset.

When asked whether he gives Meridor's performance high marks, he stated that he "will absolutely not hand out marks to anyone."

It is rumored that Netanyahu would like to see Meridor out of his government, and possibly replaced by Ariel Sharon. Sharon's National Infrastructure portfolio, according to this scenario, could then be handed over to Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, whose portfolio would be restored to Ya'acov Ne'emman.

Moreover, if Meridor leaves, the total number of ministers would still stand at 17, thus making it possible for Netanyahu to co-opt one more minister to take over the science portfolio vacated by Ze'ev Begin. The law currently limits the number of ministers to 18. MK Sylvan Shalom is the chief contender for the science portfolio. Meridor always has been con-

sidered Netanyahu's least favorite minister. He was appointed only after pressure by Begin, when the government formation process was at its height. Meridor has since become a constant dissenting voice, most notably during the Bar-On Affair.

Despite the reported bad blood between the two, the prevailing opinion around Netanyahu is that he cannot fire Meridor. This would incur the wrath of such ministers as Limor Livnat and get Netanyahu into too much political hot water. He can make life in the government more difficult for Meridor, but Likud insiders do not think that Meridor can easily be goaded into quitting.

Meanwhile, at the fifth annual Caesarea economic conference, Netanyahu said there will be virtually no foreign currency restrictions by this time next year. The conference is attended by the country's economic elite, under the auspices of the Israel Democracy Institute.

Netanyahu stopped short of casting the deciding vote in the ongoing dispute between the Treasury and Bank of Israel, though he promised to do so imminently.

"In about a year, we will go from a situation where everything is forbidden unless said otherwise, to a position where everything is permitted except for a certain relatively small number of specifics," he said.

Before Netanyahu's speech, both Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky urged him to hold an all-embracing cabinet debate on the economy before announcing any changes.

In a letter to Netanyahu, Sharansky urged, "in the most emphatic way, that no such steps be implemented until a dialogue is held with the participation of the relevant ministers, the Bank of Israel governor, and industry representatives."

See MERIDOR, Page 2

## Barak plans to send team to London to study Blair's style

By SARAH HONIG

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak plans to send a team of experts to Britain to learn the secret of Prime Minister Tony Blair's success.

Barak explained that he hopes "to find out what it was that Blair did to rehabilitate the British Labor Party and to bring it back to power. I would like to make use of his experience and to employ his methods here."

Barak said that he has not ruled out the possibility of renaming his party, as Blair did with his party. Barak said he is seriously considering changing the name to "The New Labor Party."

"This may have a psychological significance, though I am aware that a name isn't everything and that the really impor-

tant thing is the substance of the message. But even names and appearances have their importance," he said.

Both positive and negative reactions flowed in from Labor MKs. Nissim Zivili, who resigned on Sunday as party secretary-general, said he thinks that "the notion of a new name for the party is altogether superfluous. It is the same party and it smells the same no matter what you call it."

"What is important is that the party be rehabilitated and that it get closer to the grass roots, instead of doing what was done when the Histadrut was called the 'New Histadrut.' That did not generate an outpouring of enthusiasm for the Histadrut."

But Yossi Beilin said that "a new name might not be a bad idea. It would embody the fact that we are dealing with an old that we are re-vitalizing ourselves and yet which seeks to renew and revitalize itself and makes itself relevant once more."

## Soldier killed, three others wounded in Lebanon

By DAVID RUDGE

Fighting continued in south Lebanon yesterday, following the explosion in the security zone on Sunday night which damaged a Merkava tank, killing Staff-Sgt. Ya'acov Algamis and wounding three other soldiers.

Algamis, 20, of Jerusalem, of the Givati Brigade, was buried at the Mt. Herzl Military Cemetery yesterday evening.

He died while being evacuated by helicopter to Haifa's Rambam Hospital, after a two-hour rescue operation to extricate the casualties from inside the tank.

Two of the wounded were released after treatment at the hospital, but the third was detained. He was reported to be suffering from light injuries.

The incident occurred in the security zone's western sector. Initial inquiries by Northern Command revealed that the tank ran over two mines which damaged its treads, although there was no penetration of its armor.

The mines also may have been connected to a large explosive device which also detonated, adding to the shock of the blast.

Hizbullah claimed responsibility.

The shock wave also caused the casualties among the soldiers aboard the tank and prevented them from getting out because

## US may target Hizbullah drug trade, Page 3

both the turret and the rear door were stuck.

The rescue operations took two hours, during which a doctor and medic managed to get an infusion to Algamis and speak to the other soldiers. It wasn't until another tank deliberately struck the cannon of the damaged tank and moved it, however, that rescuers were able to reach them.

OC Lebanon Brig.-Gen. Eli Amitai said it was the first time in his experience that both access points to a tank were jammed in this fashion.

He stressed that the rescue operation had been mounted quickly, but there had been great difficulties in reaching Algamis,

who had apparently suffered internal injuries.

"When it became clear that there were casualties, the rescue force got to the scene very quickly, but operation took a long time because the two access points were jammed. It took about two hours until we managed to extricate the casualties," said Amitai. "There were two mines, which is called a sandwich, and possibly a very powerful explosive shock device as well. The matter is still being investigated."

One of the aspects of the investigation is likely to concentrate on ways of fitting tanks with additional escape hatches or other means of getting out, in the event that the main access points are jammed.

The incident further heightened tension in south Lebanon, following the recent escalation in Hizbullah attacks.

A Lebanese civilian was lightly wounded yesterday in a roadside bomb blast in the Jezzine enclave north of the security zone.

There were also reports of long-range mortar fire at an IDF outpost in the zone's eastern sector. There were no casualties.

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NEWS

in brief

UN cancels Israel mission

The UN yesterday said it was cancelling a planned mission to Israel to discuss construction in eastern Jerusalem because of what it called unacceptable conditions imposed by Israel.

Wife: suspected land dealer didn't kill himself

The wife of a suspected Palestinian land dealer yesterday denied he committed suicide and said he was beaten in Palestinian custody.

A Palestinian security official has said Kamhawi apparently killed himself. However, Kamhawi's wife, Ansa, said her husband had no reason to take his own life.

Islamic groups win Al-Quds University poll

Hamas and Islamic Jihad lists easily defeated the PLO-affiliated Fatah in elections for the Al-Quds (Jerusalem) University student council.

Indyk meets with Levy in bid to get talks moving

By JAY BUSHINSKY

US concern that Egyptian mediation failed to reactivate the peace talks with the Palestinians track brought Ambassador Martin Indyk to the Foreign Ministry yesterday.

Foreign Minister David Levy had little if any time to prepare for Indyk's unexpected arrival.

The US had pinned its hopes on Egyptian presidential adviser Osama el-Baz' mission as a potential prelude to the resumption of negotiations.

Indyk's visit came less than 24 hours after Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's comment, reportedly in the presence of MK Shimon Peres, that the Egyptians are not succeeding in their effort.

Other Palestinian sources said the Egyptians, including President Hosni Mubarak, have been exerting "heavy pressure" on Arafat to stamp out corruption in the PA.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu did not appear worried about the gloomy outlook which has become pervasive among the Palestinians.

He warned that terrorist attacks will not be tolerated by his government.

Netanyahu contended that under the previous government, "there was an inflation of expectations" among Palestinians, to the extent that they contemplated their early return to Jaffa, Acre, and other pre-1948 Arab population centers.

He said they anticipated Israel's return to the 1949 armistice lines; division of Jerusalem into two capitals; and partial if not total implementation of the "right to return."

Proceeding with his parallel contacts with regional leaders, the European Union's peace envoy, Miguel Moratinos, had a one-on-one session with Levy that lasted half an hour.

A Foreign Ministry source said Moratinos has been dealing with the Palestinian and Syrian tracks simultaneously.

He is due to confer with President Hafez Assad in Damascus tomorrow.

He will be one of the first foreign emissaries to meet the Syrian leader since Romania's Foreign Minister Adrian Severin told Levy that Romania is willing to host Camp David style peace talks between Israel and Syria.

PM: Arafat ordered Morag riots

By LIAT COLLINS

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat gave the green light for the recent disturbances in Morag, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu charged yesterday.

"There was a clear set of instructions a few days ago in Gaza for the violence that took place. I can't tell you about Hebron, but I can tell you that the Palestinian Police have refrained from acting against the violence on the Palestinian side."

"I think that what is required right now is the stopping of violence and a return to the negotiating table. We are engaged in the process with Egyptian assistance,

and of course US assistance, to try to resume the negotiations for peace and security between us and the Palestinians.

Morag residents plan new neighborhood

By MARGOT DUKKEVITCH and ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Charging the IDF has not lived up to its promise to dismantle protest tents set up by Palestinians, irate Morag settlement members and Gush Katif residents last night laid a cornerstone for a new neighborhood next to the Palestinian tents.

"We were told the IDF would dismantle the tents on Sunday," said Shivi Elon, a resident of Morag.

Elon said Morag residents are not interested in provoking violence, but are frustrated that the Palestinians remain on their land and nothing is being done.

Morag has been the scene of violence and tension over the past weeks, with rioting last Thursday. The crux of the matter is a fence surrounding the Morag hothouses.

The IDF denies the claim, but in protest the Palestinians have torn down the fence on several occasions and set up tents in protest.

Hassan: US must be more aggressive

By HILLEL KUTTNER

WASHINGTON - Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan yesterday called on the US to adopt a more aggressive role in the Israeli-Palestinian crisis.

"I don't think that time is on our side. I don't think time is on the side of peace," Hassan told the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

"I don't think that time is on our side. I don't think time is on the side of peace," Hassan told the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

Hassan is in Washington this week to participate in the regular trilateral economic talks with the US and Israel.

His comments came the same day

and of course US assistance, to try to resume the negotiations for peace and security between us and the Palestinians.

"On the threat of war with Syria, he said: 'We don't see any new indications or signs of impending war. This doesn't mean that we don't watch. We hope that Syria will enter the course of peace - this is our desire - and we hope that this will be facilitated by the US.'

"As for our policy in Lebanon, it is to protect the northern border. It is not to occupy an inch of that country's soil.

we are unable to reach an agreement with Hizbullah to stop attacking our northern border, and therefore we are there as long as no other

arrangement is possible."

According to an official briefing, Netanyahu told the committee: "The PA is under pressure and in trouble."

He said that the Palestinians had expected pressure to be placed on Israel from all quarters, but this has not happened.

"The mediation is businesslike, positive, and not intended to put pressure on Israel. The is a practical search for ways to rekindle the process."

He noted that instead of the pressure on Israel that the Palestinians expected, the US Congress is threatening to cut aid to the PA.

impression in the US," he said.

The PA has two choices, he said, violence or dialogue.

He said the Palestinians "are cautious about directly fanning the flames of terror, because they know the response from both Israel and the international community will be harsh."

Netanyahu said he had not presented or drawn up any maps on the permanent arrangements.

He said the first further rede-

ployment has not yet been implemented because the Palestinians are not abiding by all their commitments under the agreement.

Later, MK Ehud Barak in his first meeting with the Labor faction as party head, said that Netanyahu's "amateurish and misleading policies" are leading to war with Syria.

He said if Syria does not think it can gain anything by negotiations, it will start the countdown to armed conflict.

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Capital demonstration

A border policeman keeps watch yesterday over several dozen Palestinians demonstrating opposite the US Consulate in Jerusalem over last week's vote by Congress recognizing the undivided city as Israel's capital.

(Reuters)

Poll: Palestinians want new gov't

By JON IMMANUEL

A majority of Palestinians would support a move to bring down the Palestinian Authority government over corruption charges, a poll indicated yesterday.

The Nablus-based Palestinian Center for Research and Studies on June 5-7 asked 1,317 interviewees whether they would support a motion of no-confidence by the PA legislative council in light of the PA auditor's report (which said \$323 million of an \$866m budget was wasted).

The response was 52 percent yes and 32% no, with the remainder undecided.

In Gaza, which is the seat of the PA executive, the response was 59% yes, 32% no, and the rest undecided.

The lack of confidence in the cabinet does not necessarily reflect lack of confidence in Chairman Yasser Arafat, but in a separate question the chairmanship received a 68% good and very good vote, compared with 79% in a PCR poll two months ago.

The lower esteem was marked by particular incidents. For example, the way the PA handled a teachers' strike by arresting the leaders and demanding they return to work earned the PA a 27% good or very good evaluation.

More than four-fifths of those asked expressed an opinion, which is interesting because very little information about the strike was available in the Palestinian media, indicating that censorship

is not an effective way to suppress news or influence public opinion.

A majority of 75% demanded that the PA permit TV broadcasts of legislative council debates, which ended when private broadcaster Daoud Kuttub was arrested.

Only 46% had a good opinion of the council's performance, and 42% said they appreciated it more after seeing the broadcasts.

Support for the peace process has increased from a low of 60% in April to 68%.

The number of those who said they support no particular political faction increased from 29% to 36%, almost equalling Fatah, which stayed at 41%.

The poll had a 3% margin of error.

FEDERATION CJA MONTREAL, CANADA JEWISH COMMUNITY deeply mourns the untimely passing of Mayor YITZHACK (Ijo) RAGER of Beersheba

Boston Chapter of Hadassah The officers, board members, staff and friends of the Boston Chapter of Hadassah mourn the passing of NATHAN RICHMAN

PNAI - Parents of North American Israelis mourns the loss of its former president EDWARD RING and extends sincere condolences to his family

MERIDOR Continued from Page 1

Throughout the day delegates at the conference were to be seen in heated discussions, before proclaiming their support for either the Netanyahu-Frenkel or Meridor camps.

COMPROMISE Continued from Page 1

At the Yisrael Ba'aliya meeting on the issue, Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky said his party would support any suggestion which avoided the need for the legislation.

Eitan also met with Labor faction leaders and invited them to join the effort to find a solution.

Additional arrivals for Bar Ilan University's Global Board of Trustees Meetings and Jewish Identity Leadership Mission. U.S.A.: Mr. Harry and Mrs. Aimee Cederbaum; Mr. Anthony and Mrs. Julie Goshalk; Mrs. Fella Cederbaum. GERMANY: Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Cederbaum; Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Fischbaum; Mrs. Rivka Gercek.

Manufacturers' Association president Dan Propper issued a statement showing clear support for Meridor.

The bureau called for a program that will lead to economic growth, including foreign currency liberalization.

The central bank has repeatedly called for the abolition of foreign exchange controls, leading eventually to a fully convertible shekel. While the Treasury also

sees this as a long-term objective, it has so far been unwilling to set a deadline for such a move.

Ten months ago the central bank handed its recommendations for liberalization to the Treasury. But there has been no evidence of the two sides reaching a compromise over these plans.

Netanyahu stressed that both Frenkel and Meridor agreed there was a need to come to an early settlement of the dispute.

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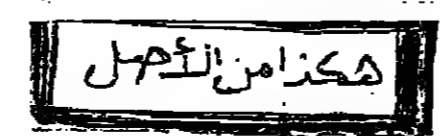
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ARRIVALS

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Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky (r) yesterday greets Rabbi Jerome Epstein (l), executive vice president of the Conservative Movement's United Synagogue of America and Rabbi Reuven Hammer, head of its Rabbinical Assembly of Israel, here to lobby against the conversion bill. (Flash 90)

IN CONTEXT / HERB KEINON

# Frantic search for conversion compromise

"Cease-fire," "an agreed upon solution," "an agreement that will last a long time," "national consensus." These expressions, generally used to the context of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, were heard yesterday relating to negotiations over the conversion bill.



Michael Eitan (Saeed Haraari)

Coalition chairman Michael Eitan has even become a kind of Dennis Ross, shuttling between the sides in search of an opening. Now meeting with a delegation of Conservative and Reform rabbis, then meeting with Labor Party representatives, now with the National Religious Party, then with Yisrael Ba'Ayuda.

The whole issue is an extension of the "who is a Jew" issue of the 1980s. But in the question in the 1980s, was whether Reform and Conservative converts abroad would be recognized in Israel — they are — the question today is if Reform and Conservative Jews converted here should be recognized — they are not.

# IDF moving administrative detainees from Megiddo Prison

The IDF is scaling down Megiddo Prison, its last detention center holding Palestinian prisoners, and has already transferred difficult cases to Prisons Service installations.

The IDF said this agreement was sought by the IDF because administrative detainees are considered a "pressure group" and the IDF has a policy of not mixing them with regular prisoners.

periodic family visits. "The conditions are not to exchange for quiet, but they get them because they deserve it," Goldbroom said.

# Proposal would have only one chief rabbi per city

Everyone knows that chief rabbis come in pairs, Ashkenazi and Sephardi, but now there is a proposal before the Chief Rabbinical Council to change all that, and have only one chief rabbi, at least in towns and cities.

chief rabbi in each town was put forward yesterday by Haifa Chief Rabbi She'ar-Yashuv Cohen, who said that in many cases the respective duties of each rabbi are not clear, thus leading to a paralysis of the local rabbinates.

# Non-Jewish spouses forced to leave country while marriages checked

Dozens of mixed marriages have not been recognized by the Interior Ministry and non-Jewish spouses have been forced to leave the country for an unspecified period, because of a change in ministry policy, civil rights advocates said yesterday.

number of "marriages of convenience," they have been forced to change the policy whereby non-Jewish spouses are registered as immigrants under the Law of Return, with accompanying benefits.

Two other similar petitions, involving new immigrants who married non-Jewish women abroad, are also awaiting High Court hearings.

# Mothers of soldiers in Lebanon repeat call for IDF pullout

Mothers of sons serving in the security zone in Lebanon yesterday called on the government to "seriously discuss" ways of solving the Lebanon problem and pulling the IDF out.

what's going on," said Sheindorf. "I joined the campaign not just for the sake of our own son, but for the others serving there or who will serve in Lebanon in the future, and their families."

The forces they [terrorists] are trying to use against us are hitting the IDF and the SLA instead of the [Galilee] communities.

# US may hit Hizbullah drug trade

The US is considering an offensive against Hizbullah to destroy its huge drug and counterfeiting network, that exports heroin, cocaine, and forged dollars there and into other Western states, officials say.

There is no doubt of Hizbullah involvement in drug production," Dep.-Cmdr. Shmuel Narkis, head of special operations in the Internal Security Ministry, told the Knesset War on Drugs Committee yesterday.

reduces heroin. The drugs are then manufactured in laboratories in the Bekaa Valley and exported by air or sea through Syria, which sources say serves as a transit station for both incoming and outgoing drugs, as well as providing protection for the drug traffic.

riots has not yet been... because the Palestinians are under the agreement... MK Ehud Barak is... setting with the Labor Party... al's "amateurism" and... policies" are leading... rth Syria, armed... e Palestinians, and... world... id if Syria does not... in anything by negoti... start the countdown... conflict. He said... would cause heavy... and then we'll buy... to back to the negoti... To discuss what? The... we could discuss today...

Pal... Congress recognizing... new gov't is not an effective way... news or information... A majority of the... that the PA permit... of legislative... which ended when... Yasser Abed Khatib... Only... had a good... the... performance... 47%... they... after seeing the... Support for the... has increased from... in April to... they... no... factor... stated... dropped... The... had...

Bar-Ilan University

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# NEWS

in brief

## Two arrested in Acre demonstrations

Two people were arrested during a violent confrontation yesterday between police and Acre residents who blocked the road leading to the city's industrial zone. Police warned the demonstrators to disperse, but when they did not, police broke up the protest with water cannons. The city has been demanding that Acre be granted Development Area A status, which has been granted to Karmiel and Nahariya. The status confers tax benefits on investors.

Demonstrators said that on Friday, 10 busloads of people would travel to Jerusalem to protest in front of the Prime Minister's Office during the weekly cabinet meeting. Acre Mayor Eli de Castro is to meet tomorrow with Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avigdor Lieberman. *Itim*

## More arrests in Har Adar shooting

Eighteen Palestinians have been arrested in connection with the Friday night shooting of Ofri Feldman, 23, near Har Adar. Since the incident, the IDF has arrested 12 more suspects from the villages of Beit Tzurif and Katana, in addition to the six from Bidu who were arrested late Friday.

Security sources said yesterday that it appeared the incident was not a drive-by shooting, but that the terrorists shot from the roadside and fled in a waiting car. *Itim*

## Hammer hospitalized for abdominal surgery

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer entered Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem, yesterday for abdominal surgery. He has been suffering from an abdominal infection and his physician decided that an operation is necessary. *Itim*

## Diplomat's life saved

The life of a 60-year-old Egyptian diplomat was saved yesterday when he was resuscitated by a private ambulance team after losing consciousness at Tel Aviv University. The diplomat, who was clinically dead, underwent electric shocks and received special medications. In 20 minutes, his heartbeat returned and his blood pressure was normal, but he remained unconscious. He was brought to Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv for more treatment. In only a minority of cases are clinically dead people successfully resuscitated. *Judy Siegel*

## Surgery saves woman's sight

A 60-year-old woman with a cyst in the base of her skull that grew so fast that she was blinded can see again after emergency surgery at Soroka Hospital in Beersheba. Scans showed the cyst had caused the destruction of bones in the skull and had pressed on her optic nerves. *Judy Siegel*

## Gasoline prices drop

Gasoline prices went down today. Lead-free (95 octane) dropped 1.8 percent to NIS 3.23 a liter, from NIS 3.29, and 96 octane went down 2.1% to NIS 3.22, from NIS 3.29. The price of heating oil dropped 7.9%. The decreases were caused by a lowering of the price of oil in the Mediterranean basin and by changes in the dollar-shekel exchange rate. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

# Panel: MK immunity should be withdrawn by public body

By LIAT COLLINS

Authority for rescinding parliamentary immunity should be taken from the Knesset House Committee and put in the hands of an external public body, the public committee on parliamentary immunity recommended yesterday. The committee, headed by former justice minister Moshe Nissim, presented its findings to Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon.

The five-member public committee would be composed primarily of former MKs, but not active politicians. Nissim said MKs should accept

the recommendations of the committee, because until today the House Committee has not refused to rescind an MK's parliamentary immunity for fear of being accused of playing politics. Nissim said a public body would feel freer to decide.

"For the first time there is a chance that a decision will be taken not to rescind immunity," said Uriel Lynn, another member of the panel and a former chairman of the Knesset Law Committee.

In another field, the committee recommended restricting MKs' immunity on charges of slander

and libel to incidents which take place in the Knesset, in either the plenum or a committee meeting. Even press releases which are unrelated to things said in the plenum or a committee would be considered as if they were written outside.

Nissim explained the suggested change by saying that, in many cases, a private individual might feel slandered by an MK but has no recourse because the parliamentarian operates under blanket immunity.

One area in which immunity should be extended, said Nissim, is MKs' protection against a

search of their papers. This category should be broadened to include computers and other electronic information systems, which did not exist when the law was conceived.

Another suggested change is requiring the police to obtain the permission of the attorney-general before opening an investigation of an MK.

Nissim said that even if the recommendations are implemented, MKs will enjoy more parliamentary immunity than their counterparts in almost any other country.

Committee member Haim Zadok, another former justice

minister, said that, since the whole issue of parliamentary immunity conflicts with the principle of equality under the law, MKs should remember it is not an individual privilege, but one given to the Knesset to help it in its work.

In order to implement the recommendations, the Knesset would have to pass an amendment to the law on parliamentary privilege, and it is not clear whether this has enough support. Tichon, who appointed the panel, said its report would be discussed by the Knesset House Committee as soon as possible.

## Eisenbergs battle over estate

The heirs to the country's biggest fortune yesterday accused each other of break-ins and illegal stock transfers, as the court battle for the \$1.2 billion empire of tycoon Shoul Eisenberg heated up.

The fight pits Eisenberg's widow, Leah, and five daughters against his only son, Erwin. Mrs. Eisenberg is disputing a 1986 will that leaves 80 percent of the business empire to Erwin. The original of the will was never found.

In a new affidavit filed with the courts, Erwin Eisenberg accused his mother of breaking into safes and locked drawers in their family home.

"She broke into them independently by ordering a specialist to open them," the son's lawyer, Tuvia Erlich, said. "According to Erwin, those safes had at least tens of thousands of dollars in different currencies, if not more."

Mrs. Eisenberg's lawyer, Ya'acov Weinroth, said there never was a break-in. "The mother had a key to the safe that included her personal belongings," he said. (AP)



## A special kind of Bar Mitzva

Avraham Malicho uses sign language to deliver the blessings over the Torah at his bar mitzva yesterday, coached by Rabbi Zvi Markuse. Twelve deaf boys celebrated their bar mitzva at Jerusalem's Moreshet Avraham (Conservative) Synagogue. (Brian Hendler)

## High Court refuses petition to delay Deri fraud trial

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Shas MK Aryeh Deri's fraud trial will continue in Jerusalem District Court, after the High Court of Justice yesterday rejected a petition for its postponement.

Following the publication of the attorney-general's report on the Bar-On Affair, Deri petitioned the court, claiming that the judges could not help but be influenced by the publication of the report, which called for his indictment for his role in the affair.

The judges are human beings, and even with the best will in the world, it is not possible that they would not be subconsciously affected by what is said outside the courtroom, Deri argued.

But the State Attorney's Office argued that district court judges are experienced and professional and



Aryeh Deri (Ariel Jerozolimski)

would judge the case solely on the basis of the evidence. It said that it is in the public interest that the trial be concluded as early as possible.

Judges are often expected to avoid being influenced by external events and have the ability to shut them out. Justices Aharon Barak, Eliezer Goldberg, and Tova Strassberg-Cohen said, in turning down the request.

This is not the first time Deri has asked to have the trial suspended. Last month, he wrote to Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein with a similar request, but was turned down.

Deri, who was at the hearing, refused to comment on the ruling. But his lawyer said: "My feeling is that when the two most influential figures in the legal system - the attorney-general and the state attorney - have spoken out so clearly against Deri, there is bound to be a subconscious influence even on the most professional and fair judges."

## Yad Sarah to open in NY

By JUDY SEGEL

The Federal Employment and Guidance Service in New York has formed a partnership with Yad Sarah to establish a Yad Sarah organization in the US.

The Israelis will teach the New York organization how to set up medical equipment lending centers and provide many of the other services offered by Yad Sarah.

A delegation of FEBS officials who recently visited Yad Sarah were impressed by the range of volunteer-based services provided to enable the sick, elderly and disabled to be cared for at home. Yad Sarah services 250,000 people a year on a budget of only \$7 million.

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# Romania still hopes for NATO inclusion

LISBON - Romania is still hopeful of being admitted to NATO at the military alliance's summit in Madrid next month, despite firm US opposition, Defense Minister Victor Babiu said yesterday.

Babiu, who is on a two-day visit to NATO member Portugal, told the *Publico* newspaper that if Romania were excluded it would be an injustice as the country met the conditions for entry to the military partnership.

"NATO is a military alliance... (and) on that basis Romania is the country that best meets the conditions. Amongst all the candidates, only Poland has a greater military capacity," he said.

"The southern flank of NATO is its weakest. It is close to the Balkans, the Middle East, the Black Sea and (other) factors of greatest risk - fundamentalism, arms trafficking and terrorism," he said.

Babiu, who will meet Portuguese Defense Minister Antonio Vitorino and President Jorge Sampaio during his stay, said the US was committing an injustice in trying to exclude Romania.

"(But) the Romanian people have not given up hope that the US declaration (of opposition) will prove temporary," he said.

Meanwhile in Romania, some 7,000 workers went on strike yesterday in Brasov to protest plans for layoffs at their state-owned truck plant and demand the firing of some of the managers. They ended their walkout after three plant directors were suspended.

Workers in this city in central Romania are protesting reported plans by the government to lay off 3,000 workers at the Roman truck factory which, like 4,000 other state-owned companies, is scheduled to be privatized. (Agencies)

# French leave amid Congo fighting

BRAZZAVILLE (AP) - French troops began packing up and pulling out yesterday, saying their job of rescuing foreigners was done, though they were sad to leave the Republic of Congo engulfed in war.

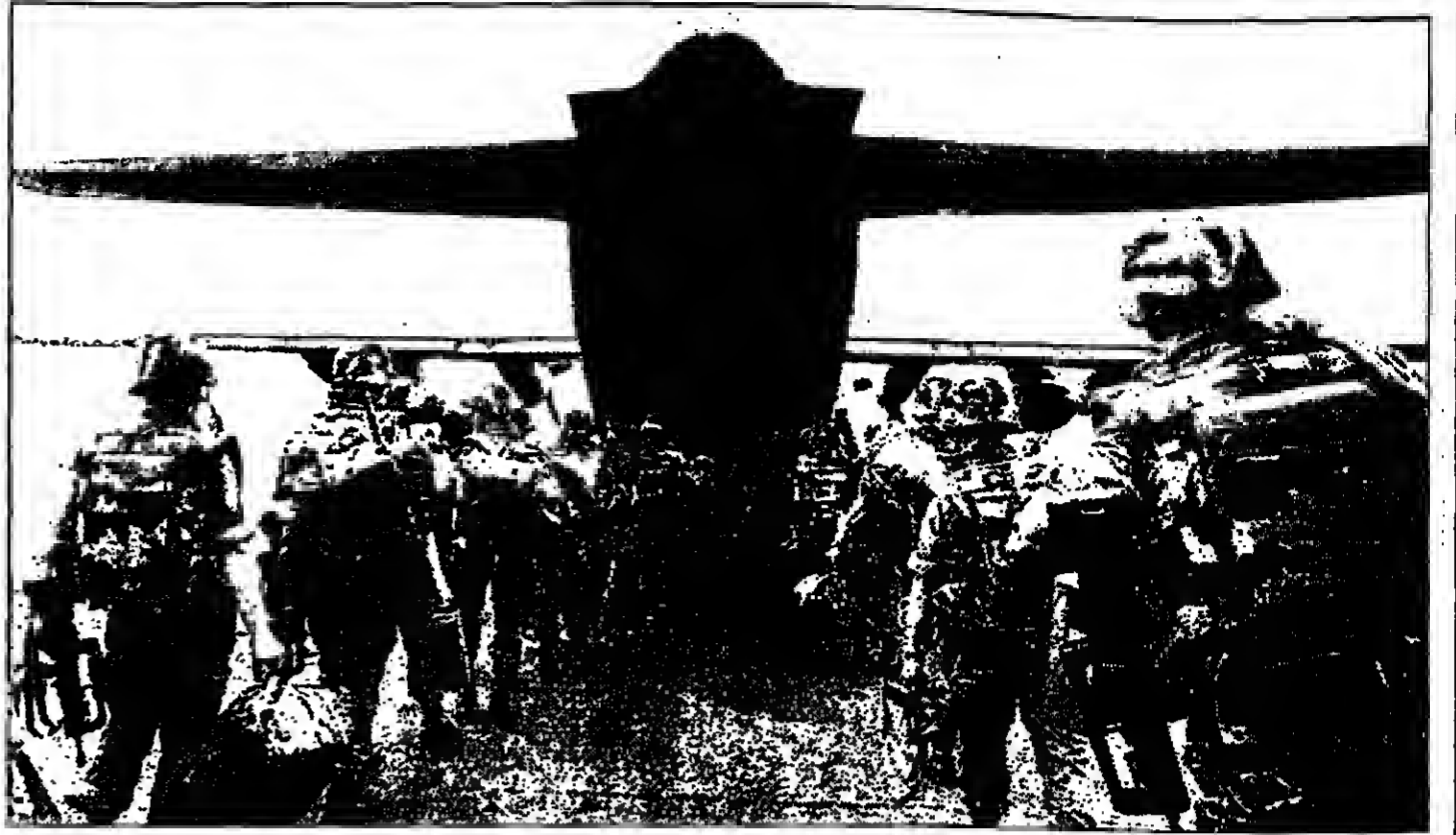
News of France's plans to leave had been followed by some of the fiercest fighting in days between President Pascal Lissouba and his rival, Gen. Denis Sassou-Nguesso. The two sides were believed to be getting into position for a battle for the airport, now controlled by French troops.

Mortar and automatic rifle fire were heard all night and into yesterday morning.

France, the former colonial power, has said it will continue to support peacemaking efforts in the Republic of Congo, but that its military mission will end as planned. It was expected to take a week for the 1,200 French soldiers to withdraw.

The first flight carrying "non-essential" French military equipment and personnel to Gabon and Chad took off early yesterday, to be followed, officials said, by another every 40 minutes for most of the day. Troops packed computers and furniture into crates to be loaded onto the planes.

"It is an achievement to have evacuated close to 6,000 people in very difficult conditions," said Col. Henri Pelissier, a French army spokesman. "We are also leaving with some sadness because we lost one soldier... and had six others injured. And sadness too to leave a country in a civil war. We hope that



French troops enter a transport plane at Brazzaville airport yesterday.

(Reuters)

the mediation that is taking place in Libreville is successful so that war does not break out again when we leave, resulting in new massacres," Pelissier said.

Representatives of Lissouba and Sassou-Nguesso opened talks in Libreville, Gabon yesterday to try to arrange a peace summit between the two leaders.

according to radio reports from Gabon.

The presidents of Gabon, the Central African Republic and Chad and diplomats from the United Nations, the European Union and France were observing the talks.

Fighting erupted June 5 when Lissouba sent government forces to disarm Sassou-Nguesso's private militia. Lissouba said he acted to avert violence before a July 27 presidential election in this central African nation.

Sassou-Nguesso, a former dictator who will run against Lissouba, claimed the president sparked the clashes to delay the vote and keep power.

Lissouba, speaking on French television Sunday, appealed to France to leave troops in Brazzaville, afraid that a pullout might lead to the collapse of his government.

"I launch a strident appeal. We would have liked the French forces, with ourselves and with the opposition... to create a peacekeeping force to avoid what has been happening today," he told France 3 television.

# Croatia polls said not fair

ZAGREB (AP) - Presidential elections in which Franjo Tudjman won another term were marred by shortcomings, including strong media bias in favor of the incumbent, international monitors said yesterday.

Former US Sen. Paul Simon, head of the monitoring mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, told reporters that Sunday's elections were "free but not fair." He cited what he said were "fundamental flaws" in the campaign, and singled out bias on the part of the media, most of which is controlled by the state. The elections, Simon said, "did not meet the minimum standards for democracies."

Tudjman's victory was never seriously in question. With 93 percent of the votes counted, the 75-year-old incumbent collected 61 percent of the vote.

# EU summit approves stability pact

News agencies

AMSTERDAM - European Union leaders yesterday approved a controversial budget stability pact and a resolution on boosting employment and growth hammered out by finance ministers, Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok said.

"It is with a great feeling of satisfaction that I can tell you the European Council has just reached complete agreement on what our finance ministers decided earlier," Kok told a news conference on the first day of a two-day summit.

The EU summit can now focus on its next great turn-of-the-century project - expansion into Eastern Europe.

The agreement, worked out by finance ministers at the EU's mid-year summit, was a compromise matching Germany's insistence on tight finances with French demands for more spending on job creation.

"We now have the legal and economic framework in place for European monetary union," said EU Finance Commissioner Yves-Thibault de Silguy. "It's a strong signal to the markets."

Under the deal, the EU ratifies a German-inspired pact to underpin the common currency by fixing nations that run up big budget deficits after the switch to the new currency, to be called the euro.

To get the new French Socialist government to go along, other



German Chancellor Helmut Kohl meets with Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok during the EU summit.

(Reuters)

nations agreed to work closer together to find jobs for the EU's 18 million unemployed.

The deal put the EU's drive for a single European currency by 1999 back on track after a week of uncertainty and jitters on financial markets after France's new Socialist government asked for a delay to study the stability pact.

The jobs resolution, drafted at French insistence, called for enhanced coordination of EU employment policies and a new drive by the Union's lending arm, the European Investment Bank, to promote small businesses innovat-

ing in high-technology.

It also sought stronger links between European economic and monetary union and employment and a study of the relationship between future EU exchange rate policy and the independent European central bank.

German Finance Minister Theo Waigel said Germans could live happily with the agreement because it required no additional spending, but French spokesmen claimed victory, saying they had begun to turn the tide of European policy away from austerity and towards employment.

# Top model back at work after drug scare

PARIS (Reuters) - British model Naomi Campbell returned to work in Paris yesterday after receiving emergency treatment in a Canary Islands hospital, her agent said.

Xavier Moreau of Elite modeling agency, denying Campbell had been treated for a drug overdose, said she had suffered an allergy to antibiotics which she had taken for stomach pains.

"It was an allergy to antibiotics, she didn't take barbiturates," he said. "She has resumed her activities." The 26-year-old model was taken semi-conscious from her five-star hotel on the Spanish island of Gran Canaria early on Sunday.

An official at Nuestra Senora del Pino hospital said she was admitted to intensive care after "an overdose."

She left the hospital on Sunday evening and flew back to Paris by private plane.

Moreau said he had spoken to Campbell by telephone and "it's much ado about nothing. The proof is she is not in the hospital." At first he thought it was appendicitis. She had stomach cramps. Local media on the Canary Islands reported that Campbell had had an argument with her boyfriend, 28-year-old flamenco dancer Joaquin Cortes, who is in Gran Canaria with his hugely successful *Gypsy Passion* dance show.

At the luxury hotel residents complained late on Saturday about a heated conversation between the two. Campbell then appeared extremely nervous and took some form of medicine, hotel staff said.

# Ellis Island falling into ruin

NEW YORK (AP) - Ellis Island, which was the first stop for millions of immigrants entering the United States, has fallen into such disrepair that one organization has named it one of "America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places." The National Trust for Historic Preservation blamed congressional underfunding of the National Park Service for allowing buildings on the island to crumble from decay and lack of maintenance.

"Ellis Island is truly one of our country's most recognized and beloved historic places, but important pieces of this symbol of the American Dream are being allowed to fall into ruin," the trust's president, Richard Moe, said in a statement.

Moe pointed out that the restored Main Building on Ellis Island was reopened with great fanfare in 1990, and other buildings have been restored as part of the Ellis Island Immigration Museum. But he said there are buildings on the island's south side that are in dire need of repair. The decaying buildings include a hospital where immigrants too sick to be allowed in the country were treated.

"To preserve Ellis Island and lesser-known places which together make up the rich tapestry of our nation's history, increased federal funding and more creative partnerships are urgently needed to protect and maintain the historic resources within our park system," Moe said.

He estimated that 40 percent of all Americans can trace their ancestry to Ellis Island immigrants. Twelve million immigrants are estimated to have

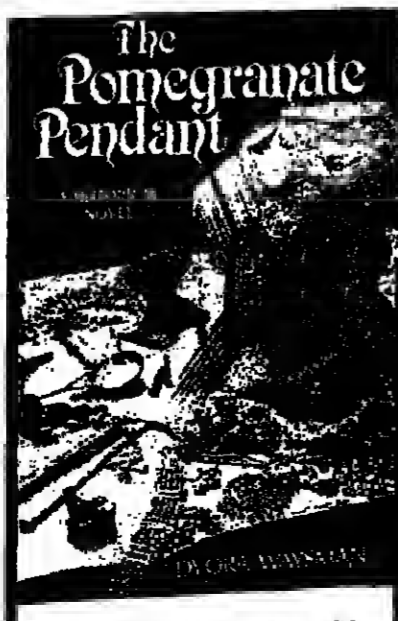
passed through Ellis Island between 1892 and 1954.

"This is a wake-up call to all Americans," Moe said. "We cannot take our past for granted. Once these links are gone, they cannot be replaced." The Trust scheduled a news conference yesterday on the island in New York Harbor to discuss its findings.

The other sites on the "endangered list" are: the Congressional Cemetery in Washington; the Flathead Indian Reservation, Montana; the Bridge of Lions, St. Augustine, Florida; the Cranston Street Armory, Providence, Rhode Island; and the Montezuma Castle, Montezuma, New Mexico.

# book department

## THE POMEGRANATE PENDANT: A Historical Novel by Dvora Waysman



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Reuven Ben Dov,  
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## A Biography of Vladimir (Ze'ev) Jabotinsky by Shmuel Katz

This is the long-awaited English version of the biography of one of the most dramatic figures of 20th century Jewish history - Ze'ev Jabotinsky, founder of Revisionism - journalist, novelist, poet, soldier, linguist and outstanding orator. Shmuel Katz has drawn on archival material, unpublished and newly translated letters, and extensive sources for this account of the center of Zionist history in the 1920's and beyond. Katz himself is known as an author and newspaper columnist; he has used newly available archival documentation in this meticulous and comprehensive biography, from Odessa, 1880 to New York, 1940. Previously published in Hebrew as IABO, Hardcover, 2 vol., 1856pp.

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By JUDY SIEGEL  
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He, she & God

DAVID J. FORMAN

Last Friday evening, my 16-year-old daughter led services at Kol Haneshama synagogue in Jerusalem. In a secular society that sees the Orthodox world as too extreme for its taste, Reform synagogues like Kol Haneshama fill a critical spiritual need.

What is unique about houses of worship like Kol Haneshama, and about the Reform movement in general, is that my daughter could stand in front of a congregation and lead it through prayers.

As a woman, she is an equal partner in helping to create the religious atmosphere that enables Jews to reach God. This is the Reform Movement's greatest contribution to the Jewish world.

I say Jewish world and not religious Jewish world because if one sees it, as I do, as a Divine imperative to institute egalitarianism, the consequence of such a theological world view can only be improved relationships between men and women and a better society.

And here I part ways with some of my liberal colleagues who see religious pluralism as the crowning achievement of a democratic society. Pluralism as a concept must come second to equality. Why? Because pluralism connotes tolerance, which by definition is a grudging, negative term.

Religious freedom, another code phrase for us liberals, is so much more helpful in setting the parameters of a truly democratic society. For under its banner all manner of behaviors would have to be tolerated, including discrimination against women.

OVER the centuries, male rabbis, schooled in the sociological realities of their times, interpreted Halacha in a way that served their male egos. They totally disregarded the Divine thrust toward equality of the sexes that was clearly present at the Creation.

We liberal religionists must not become complicit partners in this disregard. Conservative Jews would not allow my daughter to chant Torah in their synagogues. They also did not allow her to be the 10 person making up a quorum in a house of mourning, thus denying a woman mourner the opportunity to recite Kaddish over the death of her father.

For Conservative or any other Jews to justify such inequality by hiding behind the cloak of pluralism is totally unacceptable.

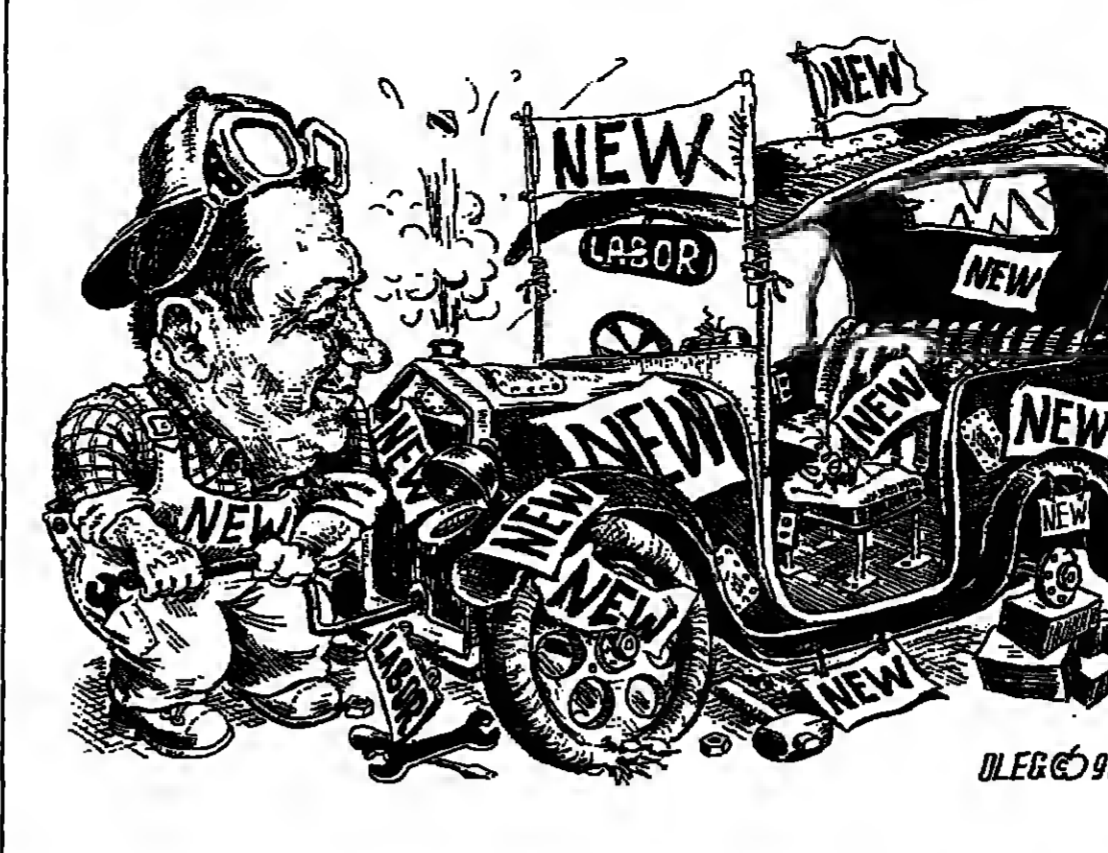


ILLUSTRATION BY GLENN COOPER

Do-it-yourself Torah

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM

American Jewry is up in arms over the proposed conversion law. By codifying the status quo, which denies recognition to Conservative and Reform conversions performed in Israel, the law is said to delegitimize the Judaism practiced by the majority of US Jews.

As the editors of last summer's Commentary symposium, "What Do American Jews Believe?", candidly acknowledged in their introduction: "Whatever else American Jews may believe in, it is doubtful the majority of them believe in Judaism."

At least in the case of Reform, popular practice and official dogma are congruent. From its inception, the movement substituted Kantian moral autonomy for the binding Divine command. All Halacha, even circumcision, was declared a matter of personal choice, and the only relevant Law that which a particular individual happened to find spiritually uplifting at that moment.

ing revelation" with the Torah's repeated insistence on its own immutability. Continuing revelation becomes nothing more than popular practice wagging the Divine will.

THE Conservative Movement, by contrast, has never formally abrogated all Halacha. Yet the distinction is lost on most of the movement's adherents. In the words of Howard Singer, a Conservative rabbi who fled the pulpit for the world of advertising, "If we talk

In place of theology, American Jews have an attitude

of God or Jewish law, [our congregants] act as if we breached a tacit understanding."

While Conservative theologians spin elaborate theories to explain their endless tacks between tradition and flexibility, their congregants do not share their confusion. They know exactly what they want. In Singer's words, it is "a way of asserting Jewish identity that entails no restrictive personal requirements, does not interfere with their social lives, and yet, on demand, can put them in touch with their past."

Less than a quarter of Conservative Jews, according to the movement's most recent self-study, keep a kosher home, slightly more than a third light Shabbat candles, and only 29 percent attend synagogue twice a month. Almost none use a *mikva*, though the movement has never declared that the laws of family purity no longer apply.

Having reduced Sinai to an "opening conversation" at best, Conservative Jews cannot offer a coherent account of how God transmitted his commands to His people.

They cannot explain why an all-powerful God is assumed to be incapable of formulating a Law appropriate for His people in all ages and circumstances; nor can they reconcile so-called "continu-

ing revelation" with the Torah's repeated insistence on its own immutability. Continuing revelation becomes nothing more than popular practice wagging the Divine will.

Thus an unlearned laity is polled concerning such issues as patrilineal descent and ordination of women, and popular practice is retroactively ratified in the guise of "rabbinic legislation."

When Conservative and Reform Jews do attend their temples and synagogues, they listen to the Torah reading, with its long lists of do's and don'ts, with a certain cognitive dissonance. On Yom Kippur, they find themselves asking forgiveness for violating commandments they never heard of, and whose transgression they do not acknowledge as sins.

Reform and Conservative Jews cannot defend their particular level of *mitzvo* observance, or their beliefs in terms of the classic Jewish sources, of which the vast majority lack even the most rudimentary knowledge.

Yet without recourse to our common sources — Bible, Talmud, Codes — Judaism degenerates into pure anti-Semitism. What any Jew, no matter how unlearned, happens to think is conflated with Jewish thought.

Whether the individual's reason, his spiritual intuition, or his base desires is made the ultimate arbiter of religious truth, the result is the same: a form of self-worship. While such worship is common enough, it is antithetical both to the development of a religious community and to the awe and mystery of religion.

The great tragedy confronting Judaism today is not that some Jews may be hearing for the first time that whatever they do is not necessarily okay. It is that they have never been challenged to think hard about the meaning of their Judaism.

Had they been forced to do so, they would be far more likely to seek the meaning of their lives in their God and His Torah.

The writer is the author of numerous biographies of modern Jewish leaders and Israeli correspondent for the Jewish Observer.

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Playing by the rules

Judging by the unrest in the Gaza Strip and Hebron over the past few days, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is once again flirting with the use of violence as a negotiating tactic. Arafat denies complicity in the violence in which dozens of Palestinians have been wounded by Israeli rubber bullets, but the Palestinian Police, which is charged with preventing just such clashes, is nowhere to be seen.

It is a bit mystifying why Palestinian youth would wish to play the role of cannon fodder in Arafat's game. It is far from clear that Palestinians as a whole see the Har Homa project as the do-or-die issue that Arafat has made out of it. After all, the project does not violate the Oslo Accords, which say nothing that would prohibit building in Jerusalem.

Unfortunately, no one seems to be interested in what the Oslo Accords or the Hebron agreement actually say. The Hebron Accord obligates both sides to "prevent any provocation or friction that may affect the normal life of the city." The agreement also requires the Palestinians to establish checkpoints "to prevent entry of armed persons and demonstrators or other people threatening security" into the fifth of the city that remains under Israeli control.

The Palestinians can hardly complain that they do not have the wherewithal to fulfill the agreement. According to the agreement, they are allowed to have a police force of 400 — the actual size of the force, according to Israel, is about 1,500.

It is perhaps understandable that the Palestinians would wish to ignore certain provisions of the agreement which are difficult to implement. Israel has also not implemented certain provisions, though these have remained on the negotiating table in order to resolve security concerns that were not dealt with in the agreement. What is harder to understand is why the strongest proponents of the peace process — be they in Israel, Europe, or the United States — are not the first to run to the Oslo Accords to adjudicate any dispute between Israel and the Palestinians.

Instead, what happens is that Palestinian violence becomes, in the phrase of American columnist George Will, "self-justifying." In other words, if the Palestinians are rioting, the automatic conclusion is that Israel must have done something grievously wrong. In fact, the main thing Israel has done wrong is to conduct a "stealth" peace policy. Everything Israel does to implement the Oslo Accords, or to soften long-standing positions, is done begrudgingly or by allusion — such as the recent indication that Israel's final status position would not include maintaining Israeli control over all existing settlements.

The public face of the current Israeli government seems almost entirely devoted to proving its bona fides to its right wing. This approach imposes tremendous diplomatic costs upon Israel, and makes life genuinely difficult for the Palestinians, who in any case never had much

confidence in Netanyahu's commitment to the peace process. But the Israeli government's ineptitude at public relations does not excuse the Palestinian, much less the American, lax attitude toward what Oslo does and does not say.

If the US and others had said, following the deadly riots surrounding the opening of the Western Wall Tunnel in September, that the Israeli move, however badly handled, was not a violation of Oslo, then the expectation might not have built up that any Israeli move in Jerusalem would be followed by Palestinian violence. The tragic precedent set by the September violence is that signed agreements are not a standard by which the parties' behavior is to be measured.

Absent the standard of fidelity to agreements, which can be applied equally to both parties, all that is left is subjective psychologizing — the Palestinians are "frustrated," "angry," or "humiliated," therefore the violation of their commitments is understood.

This is not to say that the Palestinian or Israeli states of mind are irrelevant. But if states of mind were grounds for pulling out of agreements, then the Netanyahu government would have pulled out the Oslo Accords long ago.

Most agreements cannot be implemented without substantial gritting of the teeth by both sides, especially when the parties are so far apart on so many issues. Even if the Palestinian state of mind is no excuse for violating agreements, Israel can and should do a better job of playing not just to its own right wing, but also to Palestinian sensibilities. It is, for example, extremely unhealthy that for months until the face-to-face meeting of Israeli and Palestinian teams in Cairo, there has been essentially no communication between the top levels on both sides.

This is not just Israel's fault, of course; but it is in Israel's interest to maintain direct, even if unofficial, contact with Palestinians at all levels. It is not enough to rely on third parties who are trying to broker an agreement, such as the US or Egypt, or upon intelligence assessments.

Even Yitzhak Rabin, whose relations with Palestinians were much more developed than Netanyahu's, had a personal envoy to Arafat who would ensure communication outside of diplomatic channels. For a time, lawyer Yitzhak Molcho played such a role for Netanyahu, but he was brought inside the negotiating process, so he can no longer play the role of semi-confidential messenger. The careful tending to atmospherics and communication lines is critical to the process — they are the grease that allows the peace process to inch forward, even when it seems stuck.

But even if these aspects were handled with the greatest finesse, agreements are only as strong as the willingness of the referees surrounding the process to reliably blow the whistle when, and only when, there has been a violation of the rules. Otherwise, each party will set its own rules, and the game will fall apart.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ISRAELI STANDARDS

Sir, — I refer to your editorial of May 28, "Overprotective standards," and wish to point out that US and European product standards are different not merely due to the use of inches or centimeters. They were developed by different organizations over a large number of years and often reflect differences of philosophy. For example, the US always placed a strong emphasis on flammability issues due to the widespread use of wooden buildings, particularly in the first half of this century; in Europe there has been greater concern with problems of electrocution, since the mains supply is 220-240V (rather than 110V in the US). Today there is unquestionably a move towards harmonized standards. In general, it is the US which is modifying its product

standards in line with European practice. In the case of Israel, it is evident that our standards policy is neither clear nor consistent. Sometimes an American or a European standard is adopted, with or without modifications, sometimes an Israeli standard is created. As your editorial correctly states, it is high time that a small nation heavily involved in international trade adopt a flexible standards policy. This would mean accepting a range of suitable but not identical standards, such as those of the US or the European Union. This is common practice in many countries.

The related issue which your editorial does not raise is that in Israel imports (and manufacturers) are restricted to one testing body, the Israel Standards Institute. The

impact on costs, service and delivery time of such a monopoly is all too well known.

Virtually no advanced trading nation today permits such an anarchistic situation, which strangles trade, increases costs and causes international friction. They allow and recognize a plethora of duly accredited testing bodies to perform this function.

Israel has set up a national Laboratory Accreditation Authority, which certifies laboratories according to international criteria. Now is the time to allow these labs to offer testing services for imported and locally manufactured goods, rather than allow Israel's trade to languish in the Third-World type monopolistic grip of the Israel Standards Institute.

ALAN CLAYMAN Or Yehuda.

TICKING TIME BOMB

Sir, — Your news report of May 28, regarding the proposed Knesset bill to limit missionary activity in Israel, gave the false impression that this issue is only of concern to a few southern US Christian fundamentalists and a couple of senators. Having recently returned from an extensive speaking tour in America, I am aware that the proposed legislation is being widely discussed in the extensive Christian media, which includes over 1,000 radio and TV stations. The issue is perking the interest of the secular media as well (as it is in Europe and elsewhere), along with many pro-Israel Christian groups and politicians. On top of that, several large Christian denominations have spoken out against the proposed bill, and a major tourism boycott is being planned if the legislation is enacted. In short, this proposed leg-

islation, which most Israelis seem either ignorant of or oblivious to, is an issue that could ultimately cause Israel much more harm around the world than the Orthodox-Reform conversion fight.

The Israeli public should be forewarned: The obscure anti-missionary legislation, which passed its first reading in March, would cause tremendous financial and political harm to this country. The valid argument made by pro-Israel groups like the Christian Embassy, Christian Friends of Israel and Bridges for Peace — that Israel has guarded the religious rights of all of its citizens in Jerusalem and should therefore keep control of the entire city — would be severely undermined if certain Israelis are jailed for handing out or possessing religious tracts not to the liking of the

majority. American Christians in particular, whose tax dollars have substantially aided Israel, would rightly conclude that their trusted ally had bucked a major tenet of any democratic system. This would cause a sharp erosion in American support for the beleaguered state.

Maybe a majority of Israelis are so concerned with missionary activity that they truly want new legislation outlawing it, no matter how undermining this might be. In light of the fact that very few Israelis have responded to Messianic missionary approaches, I don't think so. Whatever the case, all Israelis should know that the proposed legislation is a ticking time bomb with enormous potential consequences for the country.

DAVID DOLAN Jerusalem.

Aren't we all brothers?

ANDREW M. SACKS

The prime minister has been meeting Conservative and Reform leaders this week in an effort to find a creative solution to the controversy surrounding possible changes in the conversion law.

These meetings come against the background of troubling acts of violence by the haredim against Jews who do not believe as they do. Recent calls to violence can no longer be dismissed as the words of a few fringe radicals.

Some key haredi leaders have called upon their followers to banish Conservative and Reform Jews from Israel.

Haim Miller, deputy mayor of Jerusalem, was quoted as saying, "Everyone to whom the integrity of the Jewish people matters must struggle to see that the Conservative Jews have no place in Israel."

A recent ad in a major Israeli paper called Conservative Jews a Satanic cult and worshippers of Baal. It cited halachic decisions permitting our murder because of our opinions. The ad was signed by members of all the major Orthodox rabbinical bodies.

Truth: The Talmud and Midrash teach that there are "70 faces to the Torah" (i.e. an unlimited number of interpretations). Each is "the words of the living God."

Myth: Praying at the Wall was a provocative act.

Truth: We chose a spot way off to the side and at the rear of the Western Wall plaza so as not to offend others.

There are myths spread by the haredi world, and there are facts. It's time to separate them

One might term the gathering of Jews outside the Moscow synagogue on Simhat Torah in years past "provocative," or the illegal immigration of Jews to Palestine during the British Mandate, or the refusal of American blacks to sit in the back of buses.

Yet all these acts were the fulfillment of the biblical injunction to "pursue justice."

forthcoming. The attacking mob consisted of hundreds. No haredi leaders tried to restrain their followers.

Truth: The Torah, and all our Holy Books, are the rightful property of all Jews. For all of us stood together at Sinai.

Myth: Women are prohibited from reading from the Torah.

Truth: The Talmud explicitly states that women may, in theory, be called to the Torah (Megillah, 23A).

Myth: Women are prohibited from donning *tefillin*.

Truth: The Midrash and other sources tell us that Michal, daughter of King Saul, put on phylacteries. So did Rashi's daughter.

Myth: The Jewish people cannot live together in peace with such widely-diverging approaches.

Truth: Belt Hillel and Beit Shammai not only lived together, but married one another.

Myth: Only Orthodox rabbis may perform a valid conversion.

Truth: The codes rule that even a conversion performed by three laymen is valid.

It's time to separate fact from fiction. I call upon the haredi leadership to sit down with us in the spirit of brotherhood and find a common language in which to dialogue — so that, in the spirit of Aaron, we become pursuers of peace.

The writer directs the Rabbinical Assembly of Israel, the organization of Conservative/Masorti rabbis in Israel.

The writer is a freelancer living in Jerusalem.

# Summer baddies are out in force

By JOHN HORN

The summer movie season is filled with important life lessons: People named Cyrus the Virus, Billy Bedlam and Swamp Thing are not the best airplane companions; don't trust lawyers, and especially, don't trust journalists; if a computer programmer starts sticking leeches on his chest, make sure you immediately change cruise lines.

For almost every colorful summer movie, there's a colorful summer movie villain. Even the season's romantic comedies are not scoundrel-free: Julia Roberts plays a scheming home-wrecker in *My Best Friend's Wedding*, and Matthew Broderick a lovesick stalker in *Addicted to Love*.

But no matter where you find the bad guys, one thing is certain: The audience likes its villains just as it does its popcorn - fresh and salty.

"If it's done right, the villain is the most fun part of the movie," says Jeff Nathanson, co-screenwriter of *Speed 2: Cruise Control*, which opened recently in the US.

The writers behind the summer films are laboring not to disappoint. At the same time, the screen authors must avoid the usual villains who offend any one of a booming number of advocacy groups. Make the rascal a left-handed ping-pong player on Monday, and the Left-Handed Ping-Pong Players Association of America will have pickets surrounding theaters on Tuesday.

"It's really hard to find bad guys these days," says Andrew Marlowe, the screenwriter of soon-to-be-released *Air Force One*. "The world is a complicated place and with political correctness, you can't make your villain ethnic because people will come out and protest."

Not too long ago, Arnold Schwarzenegger battled Arab terrorists in *True Lies*, Susan Sarandon took on an Italian wing guy in *The Client*, and Sean Connery and Wesley Snipes fought the Japanese in *Rising Sun*.

In today's climate, those kinds of choices are increasingly rare. "One thing that hasn't changed: Most of the baddies are still middle-aged men. When do they get out of their recliners and complain?"

In their zeal to craft stories for the most dimwitted of moviegoers, the studios generally do everything except put a halo on the hero and give the villain a tail and horns. It may make for easy-to-digest drama,

but the approach also guarantees uninteresting storytelling.

"The problem with most action movies is you have one really, really bad guy and one really, really good guy and everyone in between is an innocent lamb waiting to be slaughtered," says Scott Rosenberg, author of *Con Air*. "Almost every single villain is some drooping psychopath or an unbelievably intelligent criminal mastermind," Rosenberg says.

Villains often reflect the culture's spoken and hidden fears.

In recent years, the most popular baddies have been technology (*Jurassic Park*), Mother Nature (*Twister*, *Dante's Peak*), double-dealing government officials (*Mission: Impossible*, *The Rock*), medicine (*Extreme Measures*, *Outbreak*) and, of course, space aliens (*Independence Day* and the upcoming *Starship Troopers*).

Among the new targets in the summer season is the workplace: Willem Dafoe's villain Geiger in *Speed 2: Cruise Control* is a computer programmer suffering from work-related "copper poisoning."

Geiger swallows prescription medication by the mouthful and, just for that extra pick-me-up, he attaches live leeches to his chest. He's called a "computer psycho" who's "really sick." But he's sharp enough to hijack a cruise ship without shooting everybody in sight.

The legal system factors in *Con Air*: The villains are the worst criminals the prisons have to offer.

"What if you had Charles Manson, Jeffrey Dahmer and Monster Cody all on the same flight?" says Rosenberg. "At the same time, I wanted them to be likable, as bad as they are... The problem we may have is the audience might like the villains too much."

The likable criminals go by the names Cyrus the Virus, Billy Bedlam and Swamp Thing, and they and several other miscreants take over the plane. The hero: Nicolas Cage, also a killer - but it was justifiable.

*Air Force One*, in which Harrison Ford plays the US president who becomes embroiled in a hijack story, takes its villain from overseas: The terrorist Korshunov is a Russian ultranationalist loyal to a Communist splinter leader. Consider it a post-Cold War plot.

"You have given your country to gangsters and prostitutes! There is nothing left," says Korshunov (Gary Oldman). (AP)

### IN TUNE



Sinead O'Connor: One of the best singer-songwriters around

## Mother Sinead

By DAVID BRINN

Regardless of her stance on any number of political and social issues, Sinead O'Connor artistically rises way above most other contemporary singer-songwriters. Her new six-song mini-CD exemplifies this, with perhaps the strongest hatch of songs she has recorded in years.

The CD is dedicated to the people of Rwanda, Northern Ireland and Israel (where she appeared two years ago and where she was scheduled to play on Saturday night before yesterday's cancellation).

Always at the center of the storm - whether promoting Jerusalem as the capital for both Israel and a would-be Palestine, tearing up photographs of the pope on US television or being

which builds up passion with each verse, the song is a triumph, except when viewed as an open letter to the people of these three countries, as if all we need for world peace is a little mothering.

There are more muted ballads featuring O'Connor's crystal-clear mesmerizing voice, a couple of successful attempts at Irish hip-hop and a closing traditional Irish tune featuring Donal Lunny on bouzouki that is poignantly heartwarming. She may be unstable, have some strange ideas and equally strange ways to express them, but from a musical standpoint she's got it all together.

POOR Michael Jackson, he must have gone outside without his air filter mask over his mouth one too many times. And the pollution has finally reached his brain.

*Blood on the Dance Floor* is a 13-track mess, featuring five new songs and eight remixes of previously recorded hits, most of which weren't so great the first time around.

Of the new tracks, most are faceless dance music, that any techno geek and his rhythm machine could drum up. Occasionally, a snippet of Jackson-caliber melody or vocal phrasing seeps through, but most of the time he's missing in action.

The remixes have even less Jackson input, as some of dance music's most noted producers have their way with past ditties like "Bad" and "HIStory." Let's face it, has Jackson real-

**GOSPEL OAK**  
Sinead O'Connor (NMC)

**BLOOD ON THE DANCE FLOOR**  
Michael Jackson (NMC)



Has Michael Jackson's talent been abducted by aliens? (Hanech Guttmann)

ly made a good album since *Thriller* over 12 years ago? Sure there have been some decent songs, fine dance tracks and great production values, but for the last decade most of his success has been fueled by the weirder-than-tahloid antics of his personal life.

Whether his mind has been taken over by aliens is debatable, but for anyone who remembers the classic soul he once made with his brothers, the only message to his captors is "I want you back!"

## Musical letters

By HELEN KAYE

Nobody was allowed into his study in their Jerusalem home, and when he was working in that study, the quiet had to be absolute, lest the great man be disturbed.

He was Shmuel Yosef Agnon, arguably this country's greatest writer, and the only Israeli author to have won the Nobel Prize for Literature. He got it in 1966, four years before his death.

The one enforcing those rules was his wife, Esther (Yael Benfeld), the heroine alongside her celebrated husband (Yehoyachin Friedlander) in *Darling Estherlein*, the Jerusalem Khan theater production that Yoram Falk adapted and directed mainly from the published letters the two exchanged during their 50-year marriage, from 1920 until 1970.

Falk, who adapted and directed the tender *Middle Age* for TheaterYetto and the magnificently realized *Shira* some years ago at the Cameri Theater, is something of an Agnon specialist. He was attracted to create a play from the correspondence "because of their humanity versus the accepted image of the 'great writer.'"

He was also fascinated by Esther, a shy, intelligent, highly strung woman of whom not much is known except as she reveals herself in her letters.

Falk relates that he spoke to both Agnon's children, Emuna and Hemdat, for information on their mother, and to a 92-year-old cousin "who was very reluctant at first to speak of Esther, but then she opened up."

The play goes from Agnon's arrival in Eretz Yisrael in 1924 to shortly before his death. Esther outlived him by two years.

His daughter Emuna collected and edited the letters, and Falk took his material from *Darling Estherlein* (1983) and *An Exchange of Letters* (1991) on the correspondence between Agnon and Schocken.

Agnon's letters to Esther are written in the same exquisitely musical, rich language he used for his novels and stories. Hers to him are more and more down to earth. He speaks of his work, Jerusalem, the political situation, his longing for her. When he writes to the children, the letters are often in rhyming couplets.



S.Y. Agnon's brilliance is revealed in his correspondence. (David Rubinger)

When the Arabs trash their home in the 1929 riots, Esther is with the children in a rented home in Bat Galim near Haifa and the letters become heartrending.

"I do not know how we can manage to organize our lives yet again," she writes.

And he replies that "We'll find a home and begin to work ... the machines, my typewriter, your sewing machine, are gone but we have our fingers," and "how much longer will one be here and the other there?"

And following the near destruction: "I wander from place to place and cannot settle down to anything," he writes to his patron and benefactor, Shlomo Zalman Schocken, patriarch of the local dynasty. "My wife's situation is very hard. She finds it difficult to begin everything all over again."

Schocken (Avinoam Mor-Haim) is the third member of the triangle. Schocken, a self-made man, an industrialist and a philanthropist befriended the young Agnon when he arrived in Berlin in 1913, and eventually became his publisher. Schocken had a great deal of influence with Agnon, perhaps too much, and Falk sees him "as a sort of shadow that hovers over their lives," despite the very real support he gave them.

*Darling Estherlein* previews reopen at the Khan next week.

## The maestro fell in love with Israel

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Seldom has a visiting musician fallen so head-over-heels in love with this country. Last Tuesday Michael Morgan was driving a rented car through the Golan Heights seeing, as he drove by, numerous soldiers waiting at what he believed were bus stops. "Only when I eventually stopped I realized that they were hitchhiking and that that was their only way to get home. I took four in my car as I returned towards Haifa - I was just sad that I could take no more."

Morgan - who was for seven years the assistant conductor of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, where he worked under Sir Georg Solti and later under Daniel Barenboim, and who is currently the music director of the Oakland East Bay Symphony Orchestra in California - made the most of Shavuot to tour the country while here for a series of concerts with the Haifa Symphony Orchestra.

Indeed, he says the fact that "the concerts turned out well is a bonus. I came here because I wanted to see Israel, that is the only reason really. And I have enjoyed every minute, both in the concert hall and traveling around."

Morgan, 39, believes that orchestras nowadays are happy whenever they are faced with a conductor "who is competent and vaguely musical. The problem today is that there are many famous musicians who started to conduct and they are lacking in the basic conducting



Michael Morgan 'can't wait to return here.'

skills. People don't see the actual need to learn conducting as a skill. They are definitely great musicians but orchestras do not know what to do when they stand in front of them and move their hands. And so very frequently orchestras have to compensate for the lack of musicianship on the podium."

He elaborates that "there is no real distinction between art and public relations. There are people out there who are not that talented but are very good at publicity."

Morgan grew up in the Washington area, which is why, he explains, his other major interest is politics. "But the problem is that if you are in politics, you have to raise money all the time. And if I raise money I'd rather do it for music. But if it weren't for the money I would probably be in politics too."

So he tries to advance political and social beliefs through his musical work. "Audiences in Oakland

### ISRAEL FESTIVAL REVIEWS

## Last-minute glory

The festival ended with a bang. After more than two weeks of morbid programming and performances, the final two concerts of the festival were exciting and exhilarating music events of a caliber rarely heard here. The chamber orchestra of Barcelona's Lliure Theater hypnotized the audience in a mesmerizing rendition of five tangos by Astor Piazzolla in which bandoneon (Argentinian accordion) virtuoso Pablo Mainetti was glorious. This orchestra's musicians, under the baton of Ernest Martínez Izquierdo, are superb. In short, a first-rate orchestra playing great and seldom performed music with enthusiasm.

Only a handful of enthusiastic music lovers came to hear the Bang on the Can All Stars, but those that did enjoyed electrifying contemporary music performed by six first-rate musicians who gave all their soul and much more to the performance. Not all the compositions in this program were as intriguing, but special mention must go to Lisa Moore's rendition of Frederic Rzewski's *Piano Piece No. 4*.

Martin Bresniek's *The Bucket Rider* was a most introvert piece, touching and compelling in a program which was usually much more extrovert. The real highlight was Ewan Zuporn's *Keybar Maya*, a tantalizing game-like music-inspired opus for solo cello and prerecorded cello, in which Maya Beiser was sensational. A grand finale for a rather dull festival.

Michael Ajzenstadt

Carbon 14 is a radioactive isotope that helps to determine the date of archaeological or geological finds. The Canadian dance theater by that name makes a statement that is hard to ignore: an intention to deal with issues such as our perception and recalling of the past, fleeting memories and passage of time. Their work, *The Dead Souls*, is full to the brim with changing images that deal with passage of time and our comprehension of it. But director Gilles Maheu takes the most obvious and simplistic means, conceptually and structurally, and lays them at our feet, so conspicuous, so banal, so dull.

Ora Brahman

Loose-limbed dancers with gently swaying hips, light feet and radiant faces make the evening with Brazilian Dance Theater Grupo Corpo sully so smoothly. Choreographer Rodrigo Pendermieras managed ever so skillfully to fuse elements of indigenous Brazilian movement motifs, and, even more precisely, movement quality, with contemporary dance disciplines. The company performed *Seven or Eight Pieces for Ballet* to an adaptation of Philip Glass's composition, and their signature piece *Nazareth*, a homage to Brazilian composer Ernesto Nazareth. It brings a fresh, simple and even naive outlook to dance entertainment that is a touch more sophisticated than it seems at first sight. Without being overly challenging, Grupo Corpo presents a sleek dance machine that is so easy to enjoy.

Ora Brahman

### CONCERT ROUNDUP

## Spellbinding performer

Maria Joao Pires does not play the piano, she sings on it. Or, to be more precise, she recites poetry on its keys. Her rendition of Mozart's E-flat major Piano Concerto (K.271) at the Jerusalem International Convention Center on June 12 was a spellbinding, haunting experience that left one agape. Pires totally avoids mannerism; she is not interested in outward appearances. Rather, she concentrates on the music per se and breathes poetic lyricism into it.

The second movement was very sensitive poetry at its supreme best, displaying stability, sincerity and serenity. It was a performance by a woman who is at one with the music she plays. The cadenza she played was simply a masterpiece in its own right. The finale was a brilliant combination of sweeping passages divided by a lyric minut which throws the listeners into totally different directions. Altogether one of the more genuine, gripping and evocative Mozart renditions I have heard in a long while.

Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos accompanied with a firm hand, providing the right balance to the dialogue between soloist and orchestra. The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra was at its regular, yet far from exciting, best.

There is a special charm to the Abu Ghosh festival (June 10, 11) which greets you as you drive through the winding roads of the serene village on your way to the church which

stands at its top. The audience is far from discerning and that is part of the magic. They greet everything with enthusiastic applause.

This year, there was a most exhilarating concert given by the Tel Aviv Chamber Choir under its music director Michael Shani. Singing Magnificats by Cimaraos, Pergolesi and Vivaldi and a Stabat Mater by Reinberger, the choir managed to capture the actual essence of these prayers in a most subtle way. The singing was pure and touching under Shani's guiding hands which could not, however, always create the right balance between the choir and the Ra'ananah Symphonette Orchestra whose style is rather remote from that of Vivaldi or Pergolesi.

That said, the choir was more than engaging and the choice of material was a revelation.

On the opening night, Stanley Sperber led a very abridged (which is a great pity and far from understandable) version of Handel's *Messiah*, in which the audience sang a few of the choruses and relatively young singers performed some of the solo arias. Among them, also Anna Haase was someone I have never heard before and now look forward to hearing again. The audience was on cloud nine singing the Hallelujah Chorus, and the overall performance was delightful, although lacking the real glory such a concert could have had.

Michael Ajzenstadt

## Alfi's dream

By HELEN KAYE

In the late '40s, a little boy and his grandfather came to Israel from Iraq, smuggled in, and smuggled in. The Iraqi authorities weren't letting Jews out and the British in Mandatory Palestine weren't letting them in.

The little boy and his grandfather are imaginary, branchchild of veteran storyteller, director and playwright Yossi Alfi, "but they are the sum of the people I know," he says. He has put the story of their journey into *A Zionist Dream*, an opera for storyteller and orchestra.

Alfi, the Kibbutz Chamber Orchestra conducted by Doron Salomon and a quartet of players on authentic instruments move the

story along. Each component plays its part, "but I don't sing," Alfi jokes.

It opened to cheers at the Israel Festival. Even the critics liked it, and they praised the music by Boaz Ben-Moshe, a young Israeli composer who recently got his doctorate from Columbia University. The music enriches, enlarges and pays tribute to the oriental Jewish tradition using Western musical techniques.

*A Zionist Dream* doesn't bemoan anything. It's not a protest, but, as Alfi puts it, "a story seen through the window of the heart from a desire to belong."

The opera plays in Kfar Sava on June 24 and at the Wohl Auditorium in Hayarkon Park on June 30.

### TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS LAST WEEKS ON WEEK	WEEK	CHARTS	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	1	18	YEHUDA POLIKER	LIVE
#2	7	5	MICHAEL JACKSON	BLOOD ON THE DANCE FLOOR
#3	RE	1	O.S.T.	SPACE JAM
#4	2	5	SUEDE	COMING UP
#5	3	64	RITA	COLLECTION
#6	5	31	SPICE GIRLS	SPICE
#7	9	5	EVAL GOLAN	WITHOUT YOU
#8	16	2	HANSON	MIDDLE OF NOWHERE
#9	RE	1	SUEDE	SUEDE
#10	6	42	RAMI KLEINSTEIN	COLLECTION
#11	12	2	ABBA	GOLD
#12	10	2	JAMIROQUAI	TRAVELING WITHOUT
#13	21	4	SHALOM HANOCH	EREV, EREV
#14	24	6	O.S.T.	HAIR
#15	13	2	AIR SUPPLY	MAKING LOVE

1 Tower Records' top-selling albums for last week

## BUSINESS

*in brief*

### 89,000 foreign workers registered at Nil

The number of foreign workers registered with the National Insurance Institute (NII) totalled 89,000 in the last quarter of 1996, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday. This figure does not include domestic staff. There were an average of 80,000 foreign workers registered with the NII for all of last year. Of those registered in the last quarter, some 47,000 were employed in construction and through employment agencies, with 19,000 working in agriculture. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

### Kibbutz movements to discuss merger

A proposal to unify the three kibbutz movements will be discussed at this weekend's annual meeting of the United Kibbutz Movement (UKM). The plan is to unite the UKM with the Kibbutz Artzi Movement and Religious Kibbutz Movement. The three bodies already work together on a variety of issues. *David Harris*

### Former Apple CEO plans Israel investments

John Sculley, a former CEO of Apple Computers, announced yesterday that he has joined the supervisory board of Catalyst Partners PV. Based in Holland, Catalyst is the parent company of Israel's HK Strategy & Finance, Ltd., an investment bank which provides strategic planning services for high-tech companies. Sculley said he is currently planning several investments in Israel: companies, including joint ventures between local businesses and Live Picture Inc., a California-based, digital image technology company he heads. Sculley is here for Internet Word, which begins today at the International Convention Center. *Jennifer Friedlin*

### Israel, Sun Microsystems in procurement deal

Ed Bander, president of network computing giant Sun Microsystems of California, yesterday signed a reciprocal procurement agreement with the government, represented by Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky. The agreement requires Sun to purchase an unspecified amount of Israeli goods. Last year, Sun purchased \$25 million worth of software from Israel, mostly from security software company Check Point. In January, Sun Microsystems opened the Java Soft Development Center in Herzliya. The center will concentrate on developing Java software products for operating systems, security systems and personal computers. Bander is expected to deliver the keynote address at Internet Word. *Jennifer Friedlin*

### 344 lots at 41st Gordon art auction

Gordon will offer 344 lots at its 41st auction on June 22/23, to be held at the Tel Aviv Fair Grounds. Among the top offers is a 1930s oil of a Seder by the late Moshe Castel (\$35,000-\$45,000) and a rare 1913 pastel of a boat on a Dutch river by Lesser Ury (\$20,000-\$30,000).

A treacly late Ruben of a mother and child has an optimistic top estimate of \$70,000. Several small Ardons with healthy estimates are also featured. Part two of the auction features a number of drawings and prints by noted Israelis with modest estimates, some as low as \$200. *Meir Ronnen*

### Safdie to re-design Toronto airport

Israeli architect Moshe Safdie has been chosen along with international colleagues for the \$2.5 billion redesign of Toronto's Lester B. Pearson Airport. The initial work will begin July 1, with the ground-breaking ceremony scheduled for next year. The intention is to double the airport's capacity with the construction of a second terminal. *David Harris*

### Owen quits NatWest Bank

Britain's NatWest Bank said yesterday its investment banking boss Martin Owen had quit amid a major overhaul of the business, which was draining the group's profits. NatWest's chief executive Derek Wantless said he had not fallen out with Owen and the decision that a change of leadership was needed had been taken by them both after lengthy discussions.

Owen's future has been under a cloud since late February, when NatWest Markets disclosed it had sustained multi-million pound losses over a two-year period in its derivatives division. *Reuters*

### CORRECTION

Harry Fox invented the first multimedia personal computer and not as published yesterday.

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Joint Managing Director of Sigma P.C.M. Investment Ltd. engaged in investments in the capital market. Professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

With the participation of leading experts in the field: **Prof. Moshe Ben-Horin, Dr. Yair Duchin and Prof. Yoram Landskroner**

Emphasis will be placed on describing the varieties of financial assets traded in Israel and methods of evaluating them. The course will help participants plan their investment portfolio and balance risks and prospects between the various investment components.

**For whom the course is intended**  
The course is intended for financial directors, accountants and other personnel in financial companies, the staff of banks and non-profit organizations and members of the free professions.

**Time and place**  
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Group 1: Fridays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., June 27 - August 15, 1997  
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# Sharon willing to negotiate with JNF on land reform blueprint

By DAVID HARRIS

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon yesterday offered to negotiate with the Jewish National Fund (JNF) and other interested parties over the recommendations of the Ronen Committee on the reform of the country's land structure.

Sharon was speaking during a sitting of the Knesset Economics Committee, whose aim was to bring all sides back to the negotiating table following the JNF-led attack on the report - which aims to expand real-estate supply and ultimately generate a price decrease.

Insisting they had been largely ignored during the committee's investigations, the agricultural lobby, the JNF, and Jewish Agency all expressed hope that Sharon's promise of talks will be acted upon.

These organizations had expressed their concern that they were not consulted prior to last Friday's government approval of the Ronen recommendations.

However, Sharon informed them that the cabinet only gave approval to the general principles behind the report rather than its specific details. Furthermore, he added, when the key Israel Lands Administration (ILA) directorate discusses the proposals next week, it too will only vote on the principles. This will leave the path open for detailed discussion of each proposal in the report.

Among those demanding compromise in the final version of the plan are the representatives of the Arab population, the farming community, the JNF and Jewish Agency.

"There's a feeling here that Jews are splitting the land between themselves and not thinking of

others," said Azmi Bishara (Hadash). "There's no reference to the fact that this land once belonged to Arabs."

In response, Sharon said he does not want to deal with past issues but to look ahead, working closely with Arab leaders and justly considering each and every claim they may have.

"I don't distinguish between Arabs and Jews; they are all Israeli citizens," he said.

The farmers' representatives, who had successfully appealed to the Supreme Court to prevent the ILA from approving the relevant sections of the report without their approval, said they would not have turned to the courts had Sharon initially said he was prepared for a full round of negotiations.

They are particularly concerned about their future relationship with the state, which through the ILA

and JNF owns some 91 percent of the land. Aryeh Gertzel, head of the farmers' campaign against the Ronen report, said legislation must be introduced to enshrine farmers' rights.

Sharon told the farmers the last thing he wants to do is harm their rights.

The JNF is convinced there is no way it can transfer land out of state control. "It is our job to preserve national lands," JNF chairman Moshe Rivlin said.

This is a view shared by the Jewish Agency, which favors a reduction in bureaucracy and is prepared to negotiate with the farmers to reach a compromise but is refusing to sell its landholdings.

The JNF also maintains the discussion should never have been held in the government, as the ILA is the only body which can make decisions on the issue of land

sales.

The Ronen Committee recommendations call for the dispersion of the population away from the central areas; the transfer of the freehold from the ILA or JNF to househiders - initially this is likely to affect some 700,000 apartments; preventing foreigners (other than those entitled to settle here under the Law of Return) from buying land; easing planning procedure restrictions for private citizens, making it far easier to build on one's own property; and granting permission for agricultural estate holders in residential areas to register their land as individuals rather than as part of larger representative bodies and that they be permitted to divide their estates and sell residential plots.

Many of the proposals will not require legislation, but some of the weightier issues will have to come before the Knesset.

## BackWeb in talks to have its software included in PCs

By JUDY SIEGEL

BackWeb Technologies, an Israeli software firm that automatically "pushes" Internet sites of the user's choice on the screen, is negotiating with major international computer manufacturers to have its program included in each machine sold, BackWeb CEO Eil Barka said yesterday.

Barka added that when the deals are signed and the software is included in PCs, they will become much more user friendly for those interested in the Internet.

Users will be able to take the PC out of the box, plug them in and customize their own Internet "channels" - whose icons will appear on the screen while they work as soon as the sites are updated.

A very young company with a 34-year-old CEO, BackWeb already has 100 staffers (40 of them in Israel and the rest in the US) and has captured 22% of the business of 50 leading companies using push technology.

"We are way ahead of the rest of the pack," says Barkat, who graduated in computer science and mathematics from the Hebrew University. He started his career as a software developer with Aurek and then moved to Daizix Technologies in Herzliya, where he developed computer-assisted design applications.

Eighteen months ago he was a key person in the development of BackWeb. The Jerusalem Post's Internet Edition was the first on-line newspaper in the world to be accessible via BackWeb.

As it is a privately owned company, Barkat would not supply revenue or profit figures. BackWeb recently announced an agreement with Microsoft Corporation for expanding broadcast and delivery options for Microsoft's Internet Explorer 4.0, scheduled for release soon.

The firm has also just released BackWeb version 2.0 with several new enhancements that conserve the corporate network bandwidth. This version is especially useful for companies sending information to employees over their own intranet. While they work, staffers will be notified automatically of news and material from management without having to look for them.



Israeli display at Paris Air Show

Visitors to the 42nd Paris Air Show yesterday examine the cockpit of an Israeli-upgraded fighter plane, which is to be sold to the Romanian Air Force. *(Reuters)*

## Soros increases Indigo stake

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Entities affiliated with US entrepreneur George Soros and P.C. Chatterjee invested \$8.9 million in a private placement in Indigo NV, the struggling manufacturer of electronic color printing products, an Indigo spokesman said yesterday.

Indigo intends to use the investment to "improve its financial situation," the spokesman said.

Soros and Chatterjee representatives could not be reached for comment.

Since the beginning of the year, Indigo has raised a total of

\$28.9m. in placements, said CFO Shlomo Nimrod, adding that the investments demonstrate people's confidence in the beleaguered company's ability to turn its fortunes around.

"We are proud of the continued support investors have in the company and its technology," he said in a statement.

Earlier in the year, the Dutch-based company with production facilities in Israel and an Israeli leadership, announced it had raised \$20m. from investors.

Among the investors were the Landa Family Trust, whose beneficiaries include Benny Landa,

Indigo's founder and chairman, and the Chatterjee Group, an affiliate of Soros Fund Management.

Indigo, which had difficulties marketing its new product line and maintaining strong customer relations, announced a restructuring program at the end of 1996. Indigo's massive restructuring program - including the laying off of 57 percent of its workers and firing of senior staff - was designed to return the company to its former glory as one of Israel's most internationally lauded high-tech firms and to secure its position as a leader in the electronic printing market.

Early signs showed the plan was taking effect, as the company advanced toward the black in the first quarter of 1997. Indigo said net losses for the first quarter totaled \$17.8m., compared with \$21.6m. in the same period in 1996.

In January, two companies affiliated with Soros increased their holdings in El-Rov Israel to 14.4% as part of Soros's plan to increase its involvement in the local real-estate market.

Soros and the Chatterjee Group also announced a commitment to invest \$25m. in Geotek Communications.

## Rockwell Semiconductor Systems to expand local R&D centers

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Last month, Rockwell Semiconductor Systems, a subsidiary of industrial automation giant Rockwell International Corp., announced the establishment of a research and development center in Herzliya.

The company already had a center in Karmiel, which it acquired from the US-based Constam.

"We came here because of the people and talent and because we felt we could build a strong product development team," Decker said.

The increase in the number of employees will raise Rockwell's local investment from \$10 million to \$15m. per year, Decker

said.

The decision to set up a local R&D center is part of the company's transition from an aerospace and defense company to a high-tech commercial electronics firm, he said.

The center in Herzliya will design software-based modems, which are more flexible and less expensive than the currently used hardware modems. The Karmiel center is engaged in developing satellite modems.

Rockwell Semiconductor Systems' revenues totalled \$1.5 billion last year, representing some 20% of Rockwell International's \$8b. in annual sales.

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Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.575	
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250	
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.625	1.625	1.625	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.625	0.750	1.050	
Yen (10 million yen)				
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)				
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (16.6.97)				
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS			BANK NOTES	
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
Currency basket	3.6705	3.7298		
U.S. dollar	3.3837	3.4383	3.32	3.49
German mark	1.9511	1.9826	1.91	2.02
Pound sterling	5.9341	5.8234	5.43	5.71
French franc	0.5780	0.5874	0.58	0.59
Japanese yen (100)	2.9669	3.0143	2.91	3.06
Dutch guilder	1.7642	1.7822	1.70	1.75
Swiss franc	2.5435	2.5818	2.30	2.42
Swedish krona	0.4388	0.4427	0.42	0.45
Norwegian krona	0.4829	0.4704	0.45	0.48
Danish krona	0.3125	0.3208	0.30	0.32
Finnish mark	0.6511	0.6617	0.63	0.65
Canadian dollar	2.4551	2.4447	2.41	2.53
Australian dollar	2.5441	2.5852	2.50	2.63
6. African rand	0.7518	0.7638	0.69	0.77
Belgian franc (10)	0.9454	0.9607	0.82	0.85
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7725	2.8173	2.72	2.86
Italian lira (1000)	1.9870	2.0191	1.95	2.06
Jordanian dinar	4.7728	4.8486	4.71	5.03
Egyptian pound	0.9600	1.0500	0.96	1.05
ECU	3.9079	3.9394	3.82	3.89
Irish punt	5.1204	5.2020	5.03	5.13
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3098	2.3469	2.28	2.34

\*These rates vary according to bank. \*\*Bank of Israel.  
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

مركز البحوث



ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE. Lists various Israeli companies like B.N.A. Technology, Checkpoint Software, etc.

AMEX

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE. Lists companies like Am Israel Paper Mills, Am International, etc.

NASDAQ

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE. Lists companies like Accent Software, A.G. Associates, etc.

MISHTANIM LEADING 100 TASE ISSUES

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INTERNATIONAL SHARES

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NEW YORK

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LAST CHANGE

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LAST CHANGE

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE. Lists companies like Sumit Design, Sumit Design, etc.

NYSE

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TASE ROUNDUP

Stock indexes leaped to records after the Consumer Price Index rose a lower-than-estimated 0.5 percent...

Leading the market higher were Bank Leumi, Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., Bezeq and IDB

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By ROBERT DANIEL

Stocks increase on hopes for rate cut

The Maof index of 25 most-traded issues rose 1.44 percent to 303.91, while the Mishtanim index of 100 top stocks increased 1.62% to 294.61.

The indexes set their previous records on June 9, with the Maof closing at 300.71 and the Mishtanim reaching 292.63.

Bank Leumi added 27 to 5.54, Israel's No. 2 bank based on assets was the most active issue, trading NIS 22.5 million worth of shares.

Across the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, NIS 264.4m. worth of shares traded. That's 15% more than the month's daily average of NIS 230.8m.

"No doubt, he will have to" cut, said Daniella Finn, chief of research at Banot Banacha. "The question is whether we'll see an economic package deal" tonight, coming out of an economic conference in Caesarea.

Key Representative Rates

Table with columns: US Dollar, Sterling, Mark. Values: US Dollar NIS 3.4160 +0.09%, Sterling NIS 5.5993 +0.26%, Mark NIS 1.9716 -0.17%.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

Euro shares shrug off EU pact, end with losses

LONDON (Reuters) - European stocks ended trade with losses yesterday, unimpressed by EU leaders agreeing on a budget stability pact and discouraged by a poor early trade on Wall Street.

In currency markets, the dollar finished the session slightly down on the mark after profit-taking. Dealers said sentiment remained healthy as improved prospects for launching a single European currency would result in a soft euro, making "safe haven" currencies like the dollar an attractive investment.

Paris saw the most volatile trading. Stocks finished down about 0.5 percent despite the compromise agreement struck by EU leaders to enforce budget discipline in the single European currency zone and to create more jobs.

The blue chip CAC-40 index hit a record high of 2,825.18 points early in the day on a wave of optimism that a deal would be reached at the summit meeting in Amsterdam.

But the mood changed later and stocks went into reverse. Even after the budget stability pact was announced, the market failed to perk up and slipped well into the red by the close.

French investors ignored the news from Amsterdam, where the ministers resolved the differences between France and other member countries over jobs, and concentrated on the bad news from New York, where the Dow Jones made a record-breaking run last week.

London had a rough day. The FTSE 100, after Friday's record close, finished the day down 0.8%, unsettled by Wall Street and press reports of an attack on tax breaks for pension funds in the next budget.

WALL STREET REPORT

Dow record-breaking streak ends

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks fell slightly yesterday, halting a six-day streak of record-breaking gains as investors tried to hold onto their profits.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 9.95 to close at 7,772.09. At one point, the blue-chip barometer hit a high of 7,795.16, but in the end, it failed to keep up with its blistering recent pace.

The Dow has gained more than 20 percent this year, ending last week with its sixth consecutive record finish. On Friday alone, the Dow rose 70.57 to close at 7,782.04 after coming within a hair of a point of 7,800. Broad-market indexes, including the Nasdaq composite, also set records.

Declining issues slightly outnumbered advancers by a narrow margin on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to 41.2 million shares.

WHERE TO GO

Notices in this feature are charged at NIS 28.08 per line, including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs NIS 620.65 per line, including VAT, per month.

JERUSALEM

Conducted Tours HEVREU UNIVERSITY. Tours of the Mount Scopus campus, in English, daily Sun-Thurs, 11 a.m. from Sherman Bronfman Reception Center, Sherman Administration Bldg, Buses 4a, 9, 23, 26, 28. For info, call 624-82819. HADASSAH. Visit the Hadassah installations, Chugot Windows. Tel. 02-6416333, 02-6778271.

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Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9110 The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital 04-852-9205, 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.

Eran - Emotional First Aid - 1201, also 1111 (children/youth 548-0739), Fishon Lezion 956-8861/2, Haifa 887-2222, Beersheva 646-4333, Netanya 882-5110, Karmiel 988-8770, Kiryat Sava 787-4555, Hadera 634-6789, Crisis Center for Religious Women 02-656-5744/5, 24-hour service, confidentiality guaranteed.

Wizo hotlines for battered women 02-6514111, 03-548-1133 (also in Russian), 07-637-6310, 08-655-0506 (also in Amharic), Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 523-4819, 544-9191 (men), Jerusalem 825-5558, Haifa 853-0533, Eilat 833-1970. Hadassah Medical Organization - Israel Cancer Association support service 02-624-7678.

DUTY HOSPITALS Jerusalem: Shur Holim (Internal, obstetrics); Sheara Zedek (surgery, orthopedics, pediatrics, ENT); Hadassah Ein Karem (ophthalmology). Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pedagogic Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (Internal, surgery). Netanya: Laniado.

POLICE 100 FIRE 102 FIRST AID 101 Magen David Adom

Back Web in talks to have its software included in PCs

By JUDY SIEGEL

Back Web in talks to have its software included in PCs. The software is designed to help users manage their files and folders on their hard drives.

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# SPORTS

in brief

## Tiger Woods becomes youngest world No. 1

LONDON (Reuters) - Tiger Woods has become the youngest player to head the world golf rankings list, issued yesterday. The 21-year-old American gained a top 20 finish in the US Open at Bethesda, Maryland at the weekend to leap-frog over Australian Greg Norman, who had a disappointing tournament and missed the cut. South African Ernie Els moves up from eighth to fourth place after his one-shot victory over Britain's Colin Montgomerie at the US Open.

## Warne hints at improved form with 5-42

LEICESTER (Reuters) - Shane Warne captured five for 42 to hint at improving form as the Australians snatched an 84-run win over English county champions Leicestershire yesterday. Set a target of 264 in a minimum of 65 overs after two declarations on the third and last day, Leicesters were bowled out for 179. Paul Reiffel, who joined the touring party last week because of injuries to fellow pacemen Jason Gillespie and Andy Bichel, continued his encouraging start by adding three for 49 in his first innings three for 12.

## Williams, Campbell carry West Indies to victory

ST JOHN'S, Antigua (Reuters) - Openers Stuart Williams and Sherwin Campbell carried West Indies to an extraordinary six-wicket victory against Sri Lanka midway through the third day of the first Test on Sunday. In a Test of fluctuating fortunes, the West Indies pair belied the belief that conditions did not favor the batsmen, combining in a stand of 160 - far and away the biggest partnership of the match. Set 187 to win, West Indies looked set for a convincing 10-wicket victory, but in keeping with the bizarre proceedings of the previous two days the hosts then lost four wickets for just 23 runs. It was left to Carl Hooper to hit the winning runs, a six over long-on off off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan, ending an eventful first Test match between the countries in West Indies.

## Lancashire strangled by Zimbabwe leg-spinner

LONDON (Reuters) - Zimbabwe leg-spinner Paul Strang completed a match haul of 11 for 186 to bowl Kent to the top of the English county championship table yesterday. Strang took four for 68 to add to his first innings seven for 118 as Kent snatched a 58-run victory over Lancashire in the penultimate over on the fourth and final day at Old Trafford. Set a target of 306 off a minimum of 58 overs, Lancashire were all out for 247 after their last six wickets crashed for 44.

England middle order batsman John Crawley struck 91 off 119 balls, with 12 fours, but his dismissal marked the end of Lancashire's push for victory. On 245 for nine, uncapped pair Jamie Haynes and Paul Ridgway tried to hold out at the finish but the former was bowled by paceman Martin McCague with the fifth ball of the game's penultimate over. Worcestershire seamer Stuart Lampitt ended a subliminal innings by discarded England wicketkeeper Jack Russell to help inflict Gloucestershire's first championship defeat of the season, at Bristol.

Lampitt prised out Russell for 65 to end a 70-run eighth-wicket stand with Tim Hancock, after the pair had come together at 189 for seven in pursuit of a victory target of 372. The dismissal of Russell, who had already shared a 57-run seventh-wicket stand with captain Mark Alleyne, was the beginning of the end for Gloucestershire, who went down by 95 runs. Rain curtailed the fourth and last day at The Oval where Yorkshire, needing 316 to win, were struggling on 115 for four. Australian Darren Lehmann was unbeaten on 57, adding to his first-innings century, after pace bowler Martin Bicknell had snapped up three for 52.

County	Championship
Kent	1
Essex	2
Sussex	3
Notts	4
Gloucestershire	5
Hampshire	6
Leicestershire	7
Surrey	8
Warwickshire	9
Worcestershire	10
Yorkshire	11
Lancashire	12
Northants	13



WITH A FLOURISH - American Venus Williams seen in action at the women's grass court tournament in Eastbourne yesterday, is unseeded for Wimbledon which begins next week but she is certain to turn many heads with her aggressive style of play and her innovative hair style. (AP)

## Becker given a helping hand for Wimbledon

LONDON (Reuters) - Former champion Boris Becker earned a timely bonus for his past efforts at Wimbledon yesterday when he was nominated as eighth seed for this year's championships by the All England Club committee. Becker is still struggling to regain his form following a wrist injury but, despite a world ranking of 18, the three-times champion has been promoted above a host of younger rivals including French Open winner Gustavo Kuerten and rising Australian Pat Rafter.

World No. 1 Pete Sampras was predictably confirmed as top seed in the men's singles but world No. 2 Michael Chang has to be content with fifth position on the seeding list. Goran Ivanisevic, Yevgeny Kafelnikov and defending champion Richard Krajicek have all been placed above him. Six players among the world's top 20 are either injured or have withdrawn from the Wimbledon men's draw but Becker's position will not delight clay-court experts Marcelo Rios or Carlos Moya who also both find themselves seeded below the 29-year-old German. Despite a world ranking of 20th, Britain's Tim Henman has been seeded in 14th position, largely on the strength of his performances last year when he became the first home player since 1973 to reach the Wimbledon quarter-finals. He is the first British men's seed for 15 years. In the women's singles, the absence through injury of Steffi Graf gave the seeding committee an easier task. Martina Hingis, the world No. 1, is the top seed followed by Monica Seles and Jana Novotna.

The draw for both the men's and women's singles will be made today, six days before the championships start. Seeding: Men's singles: 1. Pete Sampras (USA), 2. Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia), 3. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Russia), 4. Richard Krajicek (Netherlands), 5. Michael Chang (USA), 6. Thomas Muster (Austria), 7. Mark Philippoussis (Australia), 8. Boris Becker (Germany), 9. Marcelo Rios (Chile), 10. Carlos Moya (Spain), 11. Gustavo Kuerten (Brazil), 12. Patrick Rafter (Australia), 13. Andrei Medvedev (Ukraine), 14. Tim Henman (Britain), 15. Yevgeny Koryukov (South Africa), 16. Petr Zvara (Czech Republic). Women's singles: 1. Martina Hingis (Switzerland), 2. Monica Seles (USA), 3. Jana Novotna (Czech Republic), 4. Iva Majoli (Croatia), 5. Lindsay Davenport (USA), 6. Amelie Maheo (South Africa), 7. Anke Huber (Germany), 8. Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario (Spain), 9. Mary Pierce (France), 10. Conchita Martinez (Spain), 11. Mary-Joe Fernandez (USA), 12. Irina Spilner (Romania), 13. Kimberly Po (USA), 14. Brenda Schultz-McCarthy (Netherlands), 15. Ruxandra Dragomir (Romania), 16. Barbara Paulus (Austria).

## Maccabi allows Sherf to go to PAKO

By ORN LEWIS

Maccabi Tel Aviv basketball club yesterday decided to allow their coach, Zvi Sherf, to take a position with PAKO Salonika of the Greek first division. Sherf, who also coaches the national team, is considered to be the top contemporary Israeli basketball coach and this will be his third appointment abroad. He was in charge of French club Limoges in 1995 and prior to that coached overseas Greek club, Aris Salonika. PAKO has offered the Israeli a lucrative two-year contract said to be worth \$1.1 million. Maccabi chairman Shimon Mizrahi said yesterday that with

such a generous offer on the table, the Tel Aviv club could not possibly stand in Sherf's way and he wished him luck.

Sherf, speaking on Israel Radio from Spain, where the national side was playing in a warmup tournament for the European Championships, said was grateful to Maccabi for agreeing to let him go.

Israel finished bottom of the four-team tournament and yesterday lost 81-76 to Latvia. They continue preparations for the championships at another tourney starting in Turkey today.

Sherf's deputy at Maccabi, Yoram Hersh, is said to be the most likely candidate to take over from his mentor.

## Israel to experiment against US tonight

By ORN LEWIS

Israel's depleted soccer team will play a friendly international match with the US national team tonight. The Israeli side will consist of two returning "reserves" before the moment of truth in Sofia, where the boys in blue and white will have to win in order to have a chance of qualifying for a play-off spot for the World Cup finals in France next year. Israel coach Shimon Scharf

is also an important warning before their World Cup campaign resumes with a fixture against El Salvador on June 29. The US-Israel match kicks off at 2.30 pm tomorrow.

## AC Milan confirm Capello is returning as coach

MILAN (Reuters) - AC Milan confirmed yesterday that Fabio Capello would be returning to the Italian club as coach from July 1 in place of Arrigo Sacchi.

"From July 1, 1997, the technical direction of the team will be entrusted to Mr Fabio Capello," it said in a statement. The club expresses its warmest gratitude to friend Arrigo Sacchi for the constant commitment shown during the season.

Sacchi, former Italy national coach, took over at Milan late last year after Uruguayan Oscar Washington Tabarez had his resignation accepted. There was no official word on his plans but he is widely expected to take a career break.

Milan finished the season in 11th place, their lowest since they were relegated to serie B in 1982, and will not be playing in European club competition next season.

Capello won four league titles and one European Cup with Milan after taking over from Sacchi in the 1991. He left the club at the end of the 1995-96 season for Real Madrid.

He added the Spanish league title on Sunday when Real won the championship. Capello announced after the match that he would be returning to Milan.

He told the daily *Gazzetta dello Sport* yesterday that Milan owner Silvio Berlusconi had approached him about the job in March. "Berlusconi called me and I could not say no," he said.

## Spartak killing highlights crime in Russian sport

MOSCOW (Reuters) - The weekend killing of a senior business executive at Russia's top soccer club, Spartak Moscow, has highlighted how far sport in the former Soviet Union has fallen victim to organized crime, officials said yesterday.

Vladimir Radionov, general secretary of the Russian Football Union (RFS), said Larisa Nechayeva, the second senior Russian sports official shot dead in the last two months, had received threats recently and looked nervous the last time he saw her.

"It looks like the commercial interests of different companies clashed in this case and relations between them took a dangerous turn," Radionov told Reuters.

"As often happens nowadays, they started settling scores." Police in the Vladimir region, east of Moscow, were still investigating the apparent contract shooting of Nechayeva, who was the director general in charge of finance and sponsorship at the league champions.

She was No. 2 to club president Oleg Romansev, the former head coach of the Russian national side.

One club source said she was a particularly close associate of Romansev, an authoritarian figure who retained close control over the club during his 1994-96 tenure with the national squad.

Nechayeva and another woman on the Spartak management team, named by police only as Rudzake, were gunned down at a club villa on Sunday afternoon. Her driver was in intensive care.

The murders came less than two months after the unsolved assassination of Russian ice hockey federation president, Valentin Sych, who was sprayed with bullets as he drove to work.

Sych, 60, had spoken out against pressures from business groups who take advantage of post-Soviet Russia's legal vacuum to employ the sort of mafia-style tactics that have made contract killings commonplace across the country.

One senior Russian soccer official said on Monday he was alarmed by the general rise in the use of sports clubs to launder mafia money. Other allegations, never proved, that have circulated in the Russian sports world in recent years involve the abuse of special tax breaks and widespread match-rigging.

Some of Russia's biggest sports stars, now based abroad, say they fear to return home for fear of pressure from crime gangs.

Spartak spokesman Alexander Lvov conceded Nechayeva's murder was a contract hit. But he hotly denied any suggestion the club, four times Russian champions in the past five years and one of the richest in the country, had any links to the underworld.

"There is no connection to organized crime. This contract killing could have been prompted by any kind of reason - personal contacts, other private matters," he told Reuters Television on Sunday.

"It has nothing to do with allegations of the so-called criminal entourage around our club." He added he was not aware of any threats towards Nechayeva.

Other Spartak officials declined to comment yesterday. Nechayeva, 45, a striking blonde said by NTV television to be a member of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's extreme nationalist LDPR party, was reported to have landed her job by contacting Romansev with an offer to turn the Spartak into a "superclub."

Unlike many of Russia's top clubs, such as Red Army side CSKA, police team Dynamo or the railways club Lokomotiv, Spartak have a tradition of relative independence from the state. But they have won important sponsorship deals allowing them to dominate the Russian league - they returned to the top of the table on Saturday with a 1-0 win over Lokomotiv Nizhny Novgorod - and to pay star players such as winger Andrei Tikhonov enough to stop them joining the exodus of talent to the West.

### LOCAL SCENE

## Perlman elected to serve on influential ICC panel

By HEATHER CHAIT

In an unprecedented move, Stanley Perlman was elected unopposed as the Associate Members representative on the International Cricket Council's Finance and Marketing Committee.

The position includes controlling and advising the ICC on financial matters, alongside representatives from Australia, England and Pakistan.

While in London this week, Perlman was inundated with offers of assistance for local cricket from full member countries.

Meanwhile, the team representing Israel in the Maccabiah will be Raymond Ashton, Steven Baskin, Abraham Daniels, Jacky Dvorkar, Bezze Kahimkar, Danny Malekar, Isaac Masil, Alan Moss (capt), Yefet Nagavkar, Perlman, Shimon Raz, David Silver, Paul Smith, Avi Talkar and Shimon Tzurkelar.

Bowls: The bowling population has been busy recently, both with the Shavut tournament and with the more altruistic ESRA event.

The Ra'anana team of Yitzhak Benodli, Sally Goldberg, Meir Judelkin and Tony Joffe inched past the Kiryat Ono side of Avi Naim, Assaf Gringard, Rutie Gilor and Shelley Aviv, to win the Shavut tournament 15-13.

Another tight squeeze gave the Ramat Gan team of Arye Keren, Moshe Braun, Rivi Meirav and Shosh Assiyahu third place with their 17-16 win over Kfar Hamaacabiah's Cecil Bransky, Yair Belkier, Juliette Bimbak and Michael Stange. Kenmar Investments sponsored the event.

The ESRA function, with proceeds of NIS10,000 going to ESRA's after-school enrichment centers, was won by Raymond Sher, Gordon Silberstein, Itz Shamos and Meir Judelkin.

Sponsoring this event was Anglo-Saxon Real Estate (Ra'anana). Athletics: High jumper Konstantin Matuschich is in excellent condition for the opening of the 15th Maccabiah on July 14 in Ramat Gan.

lent condition for the national championships at Hadar Yosef on July 6-7.

Over the weekend he achieved his best result this year - 2.31 meters at the Maccabi championships. Matuschich, who holds the national record at 2.34m, then aimed for 2.35m but failed.

Besides the sports champions at the national competition, there will be other heroes present, some better known than others.

Adding a dash of officialdom will be President Ezer Weizman who will open the event. No less important will be Meital Lederman who was critically injured in the Dizengoff Center terrorist bombing and is confined to a wheelchair, as is Meni Guy who saved a television crew during the riots after the Western Wall's tunnel's opening. Both Lederman and Guy will award medals at the competition.

Tennis: The ATP Tour rankings for this week have Eyal Ran at 140, Oren Motevassel at 182, Eyal Erlich at 205, Raviv Weidenfeld at 236 and Nir Weigreen at 280.

The doubles rankings are another story with Ran leading on 186 but Lior Mor is second on 244, Noam Behr on 266, Harel Levy on 272 and Erlich on 279.

Golf: Ran Sandler won the monthly medal competition with his 69 net score with Leslie Ben Amir's inferior or back nine giving him second place, also on 69. Morris Portner won the B division with 74 followed by Clive Jossett on 76. Yitzhak Dankner led the C division with 73, leaving Avraham Namdar in second place at 74. In the D division, Barbara Golan won with 74, followed by Nae Kamsky with 75.

After 10 rounds of the National Coca Cola Golf League, Kfar Shmaryahu is the clear favorite with 43. Herzliya A is second with 24 points and Herzliya B has 22.

Maccabiah minutes: Nearly five thousand of the Diaspora's leading sportspeople will be airlifted into Israel over just three days between

July 11-14 for the opening of the 15th Maccabiah on July 14 in Ramat Gan.

Accompanying the athletes will be 15,000 visitors from 50 countries. Netanya, with the most athletes, will be known as the "Olympic city" and among other hosting cities will be Memla (where ice hockey will debut in the Games), Jerusalem and Bat Yam.

Another first for the two-week event is Nava Israel, the clinical dietitian who will keep tabs on the meues and nutritional value of the victuals that cross the athletes' lips.

Temple bowling: Sarit Mizrahi won the 1997 national title, after beating her mother and winner of the past two years, Mali, en route to the title. Mizrahi, a soldier, was part of the Israeli team which won the bronze medal at last year's European Youth Championships. The men's group was won by Avi Yakobovitch from Holon who beat last year's winner Yossi Strum in the final.

Eight players leave on Thursday for the European Championships in Nottingham, England where besides competing, local chairman Ronnie Ashkenazi will be proposed to become a member of the Presidium of the European Committee.

The 140 of the country's best telkewandists, chosen from two local championships, were invited to the capital on Jerusalem Day for the national championships.

Among the men's winners were Doss Cohen (54kg), Eyal Shemesh (58kg), Tomer Almog (64kg), Shashor Sorek (70kg), Aviad Bloch (76kg), Daniel Druker (83kg) and Ran Levitan (over 83kg).

In the women's category the outstanding athletes were Shirli Star (43kg), Nataly Orhov (51kg), Anna Fliner (55kg), Tamar Golan (60kg), Tamar Mechlav (65kg), Yael Igelstein (70kg) and Ellen Goldkranz (over 70kg).

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מכרזמן הנחמד

CRITIC'S CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

After last summer's grand operatic evening under the baton of Daniel Oren, the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra returns to Hayarkon Park. Everybody who's anybody on the Israeli light popular music scene will join the IPO tonight (9) in a special concert celebrating 100 years since the first Zionist Congress.

ENGLISH THEATER

Mel Edison (Don Slovin) is The Prisoner of Second Avenue and Linda Smeaton is his wife Edna, in the Tel Aviv Community Theater production of Neil Simon's comedy about a man whose world just about comes apart at the seams. Directed by Helen Eleasari. Tonight and tomorrow night at Yad Lebanim at 8:30.

THEATER

Kate Brody's Hadassah Center Stage theater presents that delightful Little Shop of Horrors all about a boy, a girl and an omnivorous plant that grows and grows! Book and lyrics by Howard Ashman, music by Alan (Aladdin) Menken. Tonight and tomorrow night at Jerusalem's Mercat Hamagshimim at 8. (02-561-9165)

FILM

Edna Mazia's A Family Tale, about family skeletons, follows the fortunes of a German Jewish family from Heidelberg in the '30s to Tel Aviv in the '70s. Fine performances from Sandra Sadeh and Elisheva Michaeli. On the Cameri mainstage tonight at 8:30. (Hebrew with simultaneous translation into English).

JERRY MAGUIRE - Tom Cruise stars in this bittersweet comedy about a fast-talking athletic agent whose integrity gets him fired; as his uncouth employer makes it painfully clear, there's no room for old-fashioned ideals like Jerry's in the sneaker-and-



Tom Cruise stars in the bittersweet comedy 'Jerry Maguire.'

soda-sponsored world of professional American sports. So our hero is forced to go it almost alone, with no friends but a single client, a second-rate NFL wide-receiver (Cuba Gooding Jr.) and a shy, daydreamy accountant (Renée Zellweger), who quits her job to help Jerry. There's something winning about director Cameron Crowe's softly, goofy approach. Instead of imposing optimism on the characters from above, he lets their own hopefulness and idealism bubble up and carry the film. If anything, Crowe himself seems to recognize a few dark truths about human nature that the characters don't, and he uses their slightly pie-in-the-sky ideas and emotions as a source of gentle humor. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance suggested.)

\*\*\*\*\* A SELF-MADE HERO - Jacques Audiard's film begins with the small, funny story of a provincial French boy with a lively imagination, and evolves gradually into a sharply pointed allegory about memory, fantasy and the dubious legacy of the Vichy government. Not that the movie grows sadder and sadder as its historical implications open out. Hardy, with real comic aplomb, Mathieu Kassovitz plays a charming pathological liar, a young man who leaves home on the eve of the Liberation and creates for himself a fictional identity as a former hero of the Resistance. The movie manages an unusual blend of caustic humor and serious political commentary. (French dialogue, English and Hebrew subtitles. Not recommended for children.)

TV

19:00 News in French
19:30 News headlines
19:35 Coach
20:00 TR
20:30 Encounter
21:10 Nature of Things
22:00 News in English
22:30 West Beach
22:15 Drug Wars

15:00 Motormice from Mars
15:55 Body
16:00 Its Alive
16:15 Velocities
16:59 A New Evening
17:34 Shake-up
18:15 News in English

16:00 Cartoons
16:30 Discussion in Arabic
17:00 Man and Nature
18:00 To Whom It May Concern
18:30 News in Arabic
18:30 Video Clips
20:00 News
20:45 Rampage of the
21:40 Showcase
22:15 Cinema 3
23:15 Churchil - part 4

9:15 Today's Programs
9:30 Aladdin
7:00 Coffee with Tel-Ad
9:30 Ruby
10:00 Picket Fences
11:00 Bakersfield PD
11:30 Nurses
12:00 The Legend of Prince Valiant
13:00 Kate and Allie
13:30 Zombi
14:00 Degross Junior High
14:30 Junior News
15:00 News
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
17:00 News magazine with Raif Fasher
17:30 Everythings
18:00 Thirtysomething
19:00 Hertzum
19:20 The Price is Right - with Ali Avni
20:00 News
20:30 Ramat Aviv Gimel
21:15 Fact - with Lana Dayan

15:00 Holy Koran
15:30 Soccer - Chile vs. Ecuador
17:00 Square One
17:30 Exam Show
18:10 French programs

PRIME TIME TV

Table with 8 columns (1-8) and 8 rows (19:30-23:00) listing TV programs like News, Muppets Tonight, Ramat Aviv Gimel, Beverly Hills 90210, etc.

8:00 Big City Metro: Seoul (pt)
8:30 Ernst Krenk - a music
10:30 Alfred Kraus presents the opera Werther by Jules Massenet
12:30 Beyond 2000
12:50 A Healthy Body
13:30 Future Quest: Planet Patrol (pt)
14:00 News on Track (pt)
14:30 Beyond 2000
15:30 Galapagos, Beyond Darwin
16:15 Human Nature
17:00 Open University - Beta Bartok: Interactions in Science: Principles of Acoustics

8:30 Oprah Winfrey
9:30 The X-Files
10:30 Santa Barbara
11:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
12:00 Hindi shows
13:30 Lost in Space
14:30 Double Houser MD
15:00 Charles in Charge
15:30 Yan Can Cook
16:00 Hindi programs
16:30 Star News
16:30 Sports Mothers Do 'Ava' Em
19:30 Space: Above and Beyond
20:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
21:00 Santa Barbara
22:00 Star News
22:30 Baywatch
23:00 Dynasty
00:30 Vegas: The 1930s
2:30 Oprah Winfrey
2:30 Barnaby Jones

8:00 Top Xpress
8:30 The Ticket
7:00 VIP
7:30 NBC Nightly News
8:00 MSNBC News with Katie Couric
9:30 Today
10:00 European Squawk Box
11:00 European Money Wheel
11:30 CNBC Squawk Box (US)
17:00 Dream House
17:30 The Company of Animals
18:00 Live!
19:00 National Geographic Television: Save the Panda
20:00 The Ticket
20:30 VIP
21:00 Dateline
22:00 Major League Baseball highlights
22:00 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno
00:00 Late Night with Conan O'Brien
1:00 Later
1:30 NBC Nightly News
2:00 Tonight Show
3:00 Intermight

8:00 Auto: Formula 1 World Championship
8:00 Sports Magazine
9:00 Soccer: World Cup Hall of Fame



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Firm taken in by swindlers getting the police (10)
9 Page a member, about nothing just for show (4)
10 A single male in prison without money—such a drag! (10)
11 It's she composes the dissertation (6)
12 The indifferent dog expert may be set right (7)
15 More inclined to fall in behind (7)
16 Consumer of a tree's produce (5)
17 Right time for agitation (4)
18 Poles turn sanctimonious when a cut's made (4)
19 Interviews about five hundred tip-top players (5)
21 Apt to change round in a game (3-4)
22 Drink a military body finds quite the best (7)
24 Put air in drainage channel ebbing at a rate (5)
27 Fussy detail (10)
28 Yes, a conversion should be simple (4)
29 Doesn't forget to gather in a little reserve (10)

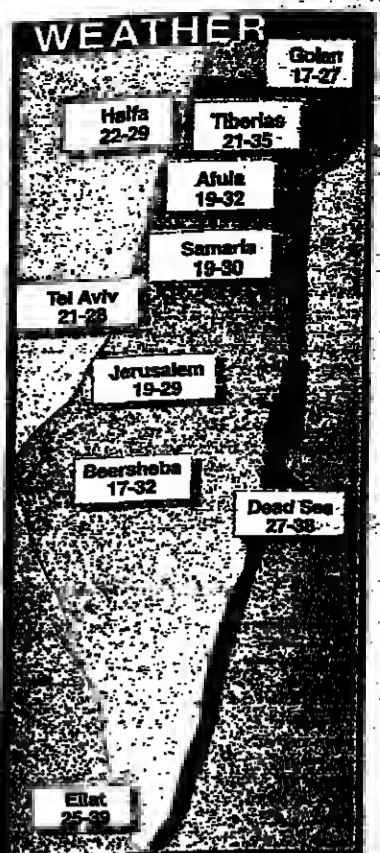
Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions. Includes 'SOLUTIONS' and 'YESTERDAY'S QUICK SOLUTION'.

QUICK CROSSWORD section with clues and answers like '1 Lofier (6)', '2 Snatched a glimpse (7)', etc.

MOVIES

JERUSALEM CINEMATHEQUE Something Wild 5 - sinner's - The Last Temptation of Christ 9:45
RAV CHEN = 6262758 Con Air-Liar Liar=Absolute Power 7, 9:30
G.G. GIL = 4454 Secrets and Lies-Liar Liar=Shine 5, 7:30, 10 - Breaking the Waves 9:30, 9:30 - Space Jam 9:30, 9:30 - Con Air 7:45, 10 - Absolute Power 7:30, 10
G.G. GIL = 6902666 Donnie Brasco=Everyone Says I Love You 5:30, 7:45, 10
G.G. GIL = 6902666 Donnie Brasco=Everyone Says I Love You 5:30, 7:45, 10
G.G. GIL = 6902666 Donnie Brasco=Everyone Says I Love You 5:30, 7:45, 10

riots
has not yet been...
Jerusalem Post
new gov't
LEFT OUT
CLASSIFIED
d the world for just



Winning cards

In yesterday's daily Chance drawings, the winning cards were the jack of spades, 7 of hearts, 10 of diamonds, and 8 of clubs, and the 8 of spades, 8 of hearts, king of diamonds, and 10 of clubs.

Even the astrologers invited to a discussion by the Knesset Science and Technology Committee entitled: "Astrology - a proven science?" did not predict the depths of emotions the topic would raise.

The discussion was chaired by Dalia Itzik (Labor) and held at the initiative of Avi Yehzekel (Labor) who recently raised the subject in a parliamentary query to the Science Ministry.

Astrologer Ilan Pecker, who arrived late, having apparently failed to foresee the traffic jams, said that top politicians, including the prime minister, ask for astrological predictions.

Yehzekel said that half the country reads newspaper horoscopes and many also "read" coffee grinds. "Some of my best friends are among them," he said.

He added that the Science Ministry had answered his question by informing him that astrology is not a science.

The discussion soon deteriorated into an argument among the astrologers themselves and between them and the MKs and scientists present.

Prof. Zvi Mazeh, the head of Tel Aviv University's Astronomy and Astrophysics Department, said astrology is not a science but that those who deal in it are not charlatans.

"But there is nothing in the theory that the stars affect individuals," he said.

Herz Lipshitz, an astrologer, said even the Lubavitcher Rebbe had invited him to a discussion on astrology.

But Prof. Ariel Cohen, from Hebrew University's Atmospheric Science Department, said that astrologers themselves do not believe in the horoscopes they publish.

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# Inquiry: Censure commanders

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and Tim

The report of the fourth official inquiry into the deaths of two airmen in a night-time training accident five years ago may finally put an end to a five-year push by the bereaved families to see those responsible punished.

But the 146-page report, which was presented to the families of Gil Tzuriano and Assaf Rosenberg, could not unequivocally say what caused the helicopter cable to snap and send them falling to their deaths.

It did find that the flight technician, Master-Sgt. M, should face disciplinary charges or a court martial. It also said that the commander of the air force rescue unit at the time, Lt-Col. A, and the helicopter squadron commander, Col. S, be given an administrative reprimand.

Lt-Col. A acted in contravention of regulations by holding a rescue training exercise without the safeguards appropriate to the level of difficulty, the inquiry found. The exercise was the first of its kind and the trainees were inexperienced - but they did not receive proper briefing, said the report.

Similarly, it found that Col. S violated procedure by failing to run through the exercise first during the day.

The board of inquiry, appointed by Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, was headed by Dr. Eliyahu Vinograd, a civilian, and included Maj-Gen. (res.) Rafael Vardi and Brig-Gen. (res.) Nehemia Dagan. Since December, the inquiry interviewed over 70 witnesses.

the CH-53 landed, but did not leave the craft, according to regulations. However, he also did not instruct his navigator to go to the aid of the victims. This was a "total mistake" in judgment on his part, the inquiry determined.

The inquiry said the two medics aboard the helicopter should also have been sent out to aid Tzuriano and Rosenberg, but no one ordered them to do so.

The families had accused former OC Air Force Maj-Gen. (res.) Herzl

Bodinger of whitewashing previous investigations into the incident. But the inquiry found that Bodinger acted in good faith and that all the actions he took, including calling off a military police inquiry, derived from an attempt to find out the exact cause of the accident.

Nonetheless, the Vinograd Commission also determined that the air force had shown "a certain degree of insensitivity" in its reluctance to disclose information about the accident to the bereaved families.

## Bereaved mother calls report a 'whitewash'

By BATSHEVA TSUR

"My feeling is that they wanted to finish off the whitewashing nicely," Haya Nussbaum, the mother of Assaf Rosenberg, said, apparently disappointed that former OC air force Herzl Bodinger had not been reprimanded.

She was speaking after the parents, accompanied by attorney Eliad Shraga, met with Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak.

"We had our blood sucked for five years," Nussbaum said, adding that Shahak admitted that, if a more thorough investigation had been conducted at the time of the accident, the long drawn-out process could

have been prevented. Leah Tzuriano described the report's conclusions as "low-keyed and light-weight" in view of the gravity of the incident.

Shraga, however, after studying the report, said that it had left them "with mixed feelings... It was a grave report which accepted most of the parents' complaints with regard to the circumstances of the accident, the officers' behavior, and the attitude of the IDF and the air force toward the bereaved parents. They decided to take action against four of the people involved, but they didn't go all the way."

He said that the families plan to decide whether further action should be taken.

### BACKGROUND

## A precedent-setting inquiry

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The IDF last year agreed to allow an external commission of inquiry to investigate previous inquiries into the 1992 training accident, as well as the accident itself.

The commission, which was the first external commission to investigate a military accident, was agreed upon by the IDF and the bereaved parents following the parents' petition to the High Court of Justice.

Airmen Gil Tzuriano and Assaf Rosenberg fell to their deaths when their air force rescue helicopter's cable snapped during a drill. After two military boards of inquiry reached conflicting conclusions about the accident's causes, the parents demanded the establishment of an external commission.

In an unprecedented move, the IDF agreed. However, it wanted the commission's mandate restricted to the causes of the accident, while the families

also wanted the committee to look into possible wrongdoing during the inquiry process itself.

For instance, the families said, it is highly suspicious that then-OC Air Force Herzl Bodinger set up a second inquiry committee - whose findings completely contradicted those of the first - immediately after the High Court issued a show-cause order on the families' earlier petition against the IDF's refusal to prosecute various military personnel. The contradictory findings were the main reason no one was prosecuted.

Following court-ordered negotiations on the subject, the IDF agreed that the commission be authorized to examine any aspect of the accident or subsequent investigation that it deems necessary. In exchange, the parents agreed to withdraw a complaint they had filed with the police against Bodinger, and to accept the committee's conclusions as final.

## Sinead O'Connor cancels concert

By ELLI WOHLGELMTER

Rock singer Sinead O'Connor has canceled her concert that had been scheduled for Saturday night at Jerusalem's Sultan's Pool, either because of death threats received here - as the singer and the concert's organizers maintain - or because of what Mayor Ehud Olmert said was poor ticket sales.

"Once I was made aware that a threat had been issued, I immediately [last Monday, June 9] canceled my appearance," the singer said in a statement. "I am the mother of two young children; I will not do anything that could jeopardize their future, my own safety and the safety of the musicians and crew that work with me."

The concert was planned as the climax to five days of political and cultural events sponsored by left-wing groups of Israeli and Palestinian women, under the title: "Sharing Jerusalem: Two Capitals for Two States."

It was unclear yesterday when O'Connor had actually canceled

the concert. Despite her statement that she canceled it on June 9, the statement was not faxed to Israel until Friday, and concert organizers said they were not informed of the decision until Sunday night.

"The Irish ambassador here tried to calm her down," said Daphne Golan, director of Bar Shalom, the Israeli women's group. "He talked to her agent in England and tried to tell him that everything was under control. We only received the press release yesterday. Her agent here said he talked to her since then [June 9] and it was only Sunday that she actually canceled it. This whole story is very strange."

The debate over why she canceled was fueled by Olmert yesterday morning in a radio interview, in which he called the festival a "provocation" and "anti-Israel propaganda."

Olmert maintained that it was poor ticket sales that forced the concert's cancellation.

"It appears the people of Israel are smarter and more responsible," he said. "They simply didn't buy tickets."

But one of the publicity people involved with the concert said that the concert was "pre-paid," meaning that the sponsoring groups had pledged to cover all costs no matter how many tickets were sold. Concert organizers, moreover, said that between 2,000 and 3,000 tickets had been sold, even though ads promoting the concert only began appearing on Friday.

"On Sunday we were swamped with calls," said Gina Benevento, associate producer of the week's events. "Almost all of the tickets [that were sold] were sold that day, so it was a really good day and it was building. This is a rock concert, and many people buy tickets the last week."

Olmert's spokesman Haggai Elias said the group had lied to the city over the nature of the event, and had reneged on a signed agreement that the event would not be political in nature.

"Even then, the mayor decided not to cancel it, because he knows that the moment he cancels it, tomorrow in [New York's] Central Park there will be a big event with 100,000 people saying that in Jerusalem they canceled a concert," Benevento said nothing was misrepresented by the organizers. "The slogan 'Sharing Jerusalem: Two Capitals for Two States' is pretty clear what we are about," she said.

## MKs star-gaze at Knesset

By LIAT COLLINS

Even the astrologers invited to a discussion by the Knesset Science and Technology Committee entitled: "Astrology - a proven science?" did not predict the depths of emotions the topic would raise.

The discussion was chaired by Dalia Itzik (Labor) and held at the initiative of Avi Yehzekel (Labor) who recently raised the subject in a parliamentary query to the Science Ministry.

Astrologer Ilan Pecker, who arrived late, having apparently failed to foresee the traffic jams, said that top politicians, including the prime minister, ask for astrological predictions.

Yehzekel said that half the country reads newspaper horoscopes and many also "read" coffee grinds. "Some of my best friends are among them," he said.

He added that the Science Ministry had answered his question by informing him that astrology is not a science.

The discussion soon deteriorated into an argument among the astrologers themselves and between them and the MKs and scientists present.

Prof. Zvi Mazeh, the head of Tel Aviv University's Astronomy and Astrophysics Department, said astrology is not a science but that those who deal in it are not charlatans.

"But there is nothing in the theory that the stars affect individuals," he said.

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The committee decided to examine whether or not to require publications to print a cautionary note above horoscopes.



**Protest not child's play**  
Children of Lapid, one of the "seven stars" communities being built along the Green Line, protest in front of the Prime Minister's Office yesterday, claiming that the school building being completed for them is not big enough. (Text: Dan Izenberg; Photo: Ariel Jerolimski)

## Women to get free health scans

By JUDY SIEGEL

Next month, all four public health funds will start inviting women between the ages of 50 and 74 for a mammography. The screening program is being carried out on the instructions of the Health Ministry.

The National Health Insurance Law requires all the health funds to carry out free mammograms for the early detection of breast cancer among women in this higher-risk group. Although the law went into effect two-and-a-half years

ago, the health authorities are only implementing it now, as the insurers had claimed they weren't prepared for the mass screening.

Until now, over half a million women of all ages have undergone mammograms, but most did so after being referred by a physician or noting a suspicious lump. Now the health funds must send a personal letter to women 50-74.

The health funds estimate that 60 percent to 70% of women receiving an invitation will go for a breast scan.

The health funds, who want to

receive special allocations to implement the program, each say it will cost them between NIS 3 million and NIS 5 million a year.

The Health Ministry says the service should be included in the basket of health services covered by the insurers.

Women under 50 who have a family history of breast cancer should ask their doctor for a referral, though there is a possibility that doctors will be asked to search their records for such patients, and send them letters as well.

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